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entertainment p.30

School trustees take action

Catholic board makes 20 recommendations to fix spending mess

The costly car allowance — gone.

Medical and dental benefits — no more.

Tighter controls on trustee expenses — on the way.

Toronto Catholic District School Board trustees last night approved or endorsed more than 20 recommendations to fix their spending mess as suggested by a provincial adviser and they even went a step further by approving, in principle, the creation of the position of integrity commissioner as suggested by newly appointed trustee Rob Davis.

It was the first step at getting past many embarrassing weeks of allegations of misspending, from meals with alcohol, hotel minibars and a trip to the Dominican Republic — all charged to taxpayers.

Trustees had until last night to come up with a plan after a report by a provincial adviser found their expenses to be excessive, and, in some cases, improper. It took them about an hour and a half to get to the vote.

They have until the end of June to work with provincial adviser Norbert Hartmann and implement the plan.

In a searing report, Hartmann chronicled years of overspending by trustees, late-night meals including trips to the Dairy Queen, double-dipping on restaurant bills and large cellphone charges that made them among the biggest spenders in the province — at about $100,000 each per year.

Before voting, trustee Maria Rizzo dropped a bombshell on the audience when she stood up and said she felt the spending controversy was a "Machiavellian plan to target a number of trustees" — herself included — by at least one other trustee.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

time to move forward

» Chair Catherine LeBlanc-Miller said the board can now start to move forward and put the controversy behind it, adding trustees will hold at least two public meetings to discuss details of implementing the recommendations, as well as meet with Hartmann as soon as possible.

celeb buzz p.38

war of words

Richards, Sheen continue back and forth battle

newhomes inside

Tips for home renovations

world p.10

Woman found in quake rubble after nine days

High 15°
Low 7°
WEATHER P. 37

KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hooked on Cook

David Cook performs a song last night during the finale of American Idol at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles. Cook was voted this year's American Idol winner over David Archuleta. Story, page 26.

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ONLY AT THE BAY

BEAUTY at the Bay

toronto

Several deer in Thistletown Village, an Etobicoke area north of the Humber River, have become a nuisance for residents as they are chewing down everything from saplings to tulips in home gardens. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Citytv
HD 519 ROGERS

inside metro

canada

food regulations
New rules require more Canadian content in food for use of 'made in Canada' label. » 6

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Manchester United beats Chelsea to win Champions League. » 20

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java to the rescue?
Drinking coffee may benefit those with diabetes, a University of Guelph study suggests. » 22

in tomorrow's metro

movies
Catch our interview with Sex And The City star Kim Catrall.

'Random' stabbing

Woman attacked from behind

another stabbing

» A 40-year-old man is being treated for life-threatening injuries after being stabbed yesterday in the chest on Reidmount Ave., in the Sheppard Ave. East and Kennedy Rd. area.

Nicole MacDonald was browsing her BlackBerry, waiting for the streetcar at Broadview and Danforth avenues, when she felt a strange man's arms wrap around her from behind, as if to give her a hug. Before the 26-year-old realized what was happening Tuesday night, the man plunged a 5-inch blade into her stomach. She had never seen him before. It was a random attack.

"He came up behind me, and ... then he stabbed me three or so times," she said yesterday.

Detectives revealed the man charged with attempted murder in the incident, 47-year-old Samad Dabiri, had been convicted of an "eerily similar" offence five years earlier. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

police services act

Peel police officer found guilty

CONDUCT A Peel police officer who drove around asking young girls for directions for "no legitimate purpose" has been found guilty of discreditable conduct under the Police Services Act.

"There is no doubt in my mind ... that Const. (Roger) Yeo's conduct has fallen below the expectations of society," Staff Supt. Roman Boychuk said in delivering his 44-page decision last night.

Charged more than two years ago, Yeo admitted he talked with "pretty" young girls, but said his actions were harmless.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Harbourfront **Students on tall ship**

COLIN O'CONNOR/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Students look over the Kajama, a tall ship docked in the Harbour Centre on the lakefront yesterday. The tour was part of the second annual Forest of Reading, Festival of Trees, which kicked off yesterday.

Deserter ordered to leave

After a 22-month battle to earn a home in Toronto, a former American soldier was told yesterday he will become the first Iraq War resister to be deported from Canadian soil after his application to stay in the country was rejected.

A dejected Corey Glass, 25, stared blankly at the floor of a tiny room in Trinity-St. Paul's United Church as members of the War Resisters Support Campaign informed media and other U.S. war resisters of his failed bid to remain in the country.

"He's supposed to leave on his own by June 12," said the group's co-ordinator, Lee Zaslofsky.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

no risk?

» It was found that, if removed from the country, Glass would not be at immediate risk of death, torture, or cruel or unusual treatment or punishment.

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Forum held for disabled

There was a huge crowd at Tuesday night's public forum about making the TTC better for people with disabilities. Hundreds of riders of the TTC and Wheel-Trans showed up, as did more than 40 senior staff and most transit commissioners.

For me it was a night of contrasts. The turnout was impressive, but this event happened only because the TTC lost two human rights rulings for not providing stop announcements. It's clear GTA transit agencies need to go out and meet their customers more often, especially customers who are less mobile.

It also struck me early in the public discussion that, despite hundreds of millions of dollars having been spent improving access, there are still some basic barriers to getting disabled riders onto the TTC.

After much expense in designing and purchasing low-floor buses, it can be very difficult to fit electric scooters inside. Another huge obstacle for handicapped riders is the treatment they get from drivers or other passengers when boarding, especially when vehicles are crowded.

IN TRANSIT
ED DRASS
transit@eddrass.com

Many in attendance praised Wheel-Trans, but worried the service would be cut back once the conventional TTC system is outfitted with more elevators and low-floor vehicles. There were compliments about improvements to Wheel-Trans dispatching — but also serious complaints about how long it can take to reach a human being.

In contrast to a stereotype that disabled advocates can be demanding and unreasonable I noted a tendency to great patience Tuesday night, including those who waited hours to board homebound vans and taxis.

Speaking of accessibility aids, last week I wrote the TTC had installed automatic stop announcement devices on all its surface vehicles. Glen Takeda of North York alerted me the system wasn't working on some buses and the TTC's Rick Cornacchia replies that the newest hybrid buses did not arrive with this equipment — but TTC workers are currently outfitting about 10 a day. These vehicles could be done by "the end of June," he says.

*****

Labour update: TTC union head Bob Kinnear confirms that representatives for workers and management will meet with arbitrator Kevin Burkett this weekend.

However, Kinnear disputes claims made by TTC chief general manager Gary Webster in my May 14 column (see *metronews.ca*). Despite Webster's comments, Kinnear says there were indeed "substantial" discussions about proposed plastic shields for drivers during recent contract negotiations. Kinnear says a signed document shows the TTC previously agreed that employees would have the option of using the barrier. The transit agency now plans to require that drivers keep the shields closed, claims Kinnear.

He also insists the recent tentative contract (later voted down by employees) guaranteed operators the highest wage in the GTA, regardless of the outcome of another contentious arbitration: Drivers and collectors have been waiting years for job evaluations that could also result in higher wages.

Ed Drass has been covering transportation issues in Toronto since 1998. He has a degree in urban studies from York University and regularly rides transit in the GTA and elsewhere.

T.O. teen taken off life support

Boy was playing field lacrosse on the weekend

A 15-year-old boy from Toronto has died after an apparent accident during a weekend lacrosse game.

Jamieson Kuhlman and his Toronto Beaches midget field lacrosse team were playing qualifying matches for the provincial championships in Newmarket.

CTV News reports the incident occurred during a game Monday and left Kuhlman on life support.

Friends at his high school, Malvern Collegiate Institute, heard over the school's P.A. system yesterday afternoon that his parents had shut off his life support. THE CANADIAN PRESS

under review

» John Steel, an official with the Toronto Beaches Lacrosse Club, says the incident is being reviewed by the Ontario Lacrosse Association, but it's too early to say what exactly happened.

Ford cleared of charges

Toronto Coun. Rob Ford walked into an Etobicoke court yesterday charged with assault and uttering a death threat to his wife of eight years.

But less than 10 minutes after his case was heard, Ford, 38, left the courtroom after the charges were withdrawn by the Crown because of inconsistencies in allegations made by Ford's wife, Renata.

Assistant Crown attorney Leanne Townsend told the court she was withdrawing the charges after a "thorough review." She determined "there was no reasonable prospect of conviction," since there were "some serious issues" and inconsistencies with Renata Ford's allegations that raised "credibility issues."

Renata Ford had made two discrepancies in statements after the original allegation, Townsend told the court. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

»news In Brief

» **SUBWAY** A man escaped serious injury after he was shoved onto subway tracks yesterday morning. The incident occurred at the College Street subway station at Yonge and College streets around 6 a.m. Toronto Police said the victim, who suffered minor injuries, was pushed onto the tracks but was able to quickly scramble back onto the platform. The suspect is described as a male in his 30s, 5-foot-9 and 170 pounds.

» **DEATH** One teen is dead and three others are injured after a driver lost control of a van in Markham Tuesday night. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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canada

While Ontario and Quebec are poised to mandate the use of speed limiters for trucks, provinces such as Alberta and Saskatchewan are balking at the idea, saying it could actually make roads less safe. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tougher rules for food labels

New guidelines to better reflect origin of goods: Harper

Food products labelled "made in Canada" will no longer be allowed to use a substantial amount of foreign ingredients, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said yesterday as he announced new guidelines that consumer advocates hailed as a "big step in the right direction."

Under current rules, it's legal to call a product "made in Canada" if 51 per cent of the production costs were incurred here and the final transformation of product was in Canada, Harper said.

new study

» A new study released yesterday by the University of Regina said Canada is doing a better job than most other countries but added the federal government needs to toughen food labelling rules.

"The truth is, foods marked 'product of Canada' or 'made in Canada' actually may not be very Canadian at all," he said. "A bottle of apple juice could have a 'made in Canada' label on it and be made from apples grown in China."

The new guidelines will better reflect the origin of goods sold in grocery stores, Harper said.

Mel Fruitman, vice-president of the Consumers' Association of Canada, said the guideline changes are good news provided Ottawa follows through with appropriate legislation. THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. students evacuated

Group in China out of quake zone

A group of B.C. students caught up in a devastating earthquake in China have been evacuated from the area over fears of further quakes.

The University of the Fraser Valley says 10 students and a faculty member who had just started their studies at Sichuan Normal University in Chengdu are now at another university in southern China.

disappointment

» Lawrence said the group was disappointed to leave but won't forget its Chengdu colleagues.

"Our president made a decision that, given the instability in the region and the fact that these warnings were still happening, that the best decision would be just to get the students out," said Kim Lawrence, a spokeswoman for the Abbotsford-based university.

"They are still in China, they are in Shenzhen, which is about 900 kilometres away, and I expect that they will be quite active supporting the Chengdu relief effort from there," she said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

»news In Brief

» **SMART** A new report suggests Canadians are smarter than ever. The Canadian Council on Learning says the country's overall score on the Composite Learning Index has improved for the second straight year. The survey scored the national average at 77 for 2008, four points ahead of the national benchmark of 73 set in 2006.

» **DEATH** Police in the Cayman Islands are probing the apparent homicide of a former Saskatchewan man. Family members say Martin Gareau, 47, was stabbed on the weekend. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Abortion rate drops 3.2%

Canada's abortion rate declined by 3.2 per cent overall in 2005, with abortions among teens dropping by almost 6 per cent.

Experts said the drop in teen abortions follows a quarter-century decline in teen pregnancy rates and they link that to better education and access to comprehensive health care, as well as things like the so-called morning-after pill.

Statistics Canada reported 96,815 abortions were performed on Canadian women in 2005, down 3.2 per cent from 100,039 in 2004.

most common age

» Abortions were most common among women in their early 20s, who accounted for 31 per cent of all abortions in 2005.

As a result, the abortion rate slipped to 14.1 for every 1,000 women aged 15 to 44 in 2005 from 14.6 in 2004. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dance group Celebration

TINA WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

Propeller Dance performers dance during a ceremony in Ottawa yesterday to announce a $100,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and to launch the group's website, propellerdance.com. The group is Ontario's only all-inclusive dance ensemble for people with and without disabilities.

Top court to rule on fly in bottle

Canada's highest court is to rule today on whether an Ontario man who found a fly in his bottle of water should be compensated for anxiety and depression.

Martin Mustapha of Windsor said he was forever altered by finding the insect, despite the fact he didn't drink from the bottle.

He said he developed a phobia about flies, cannot sleep, is irritable and his sex life has suffered.

He sued the water-bottling company and was awarded $341,000 in 2005.

But the Ontario Court of Appeal overturned that decision and ordered Mustapha to pay the company's legal costs. THE CANADIAN PRESS

hate crime

Black skeleton leads to charges

ACCUSED Two men are facing hate-crime charges after a black skeleton was found hanging from a flagpole flying a Confederate flag in Georgina, Ont.

York Regional Police say the plastic, life-sized skeleton had been painted black and was found outside an officer's home last November.

Luke Granados, 25, of Georgina, and Russell Granados, 21, of Markham, were charged with wilful promotion of hate. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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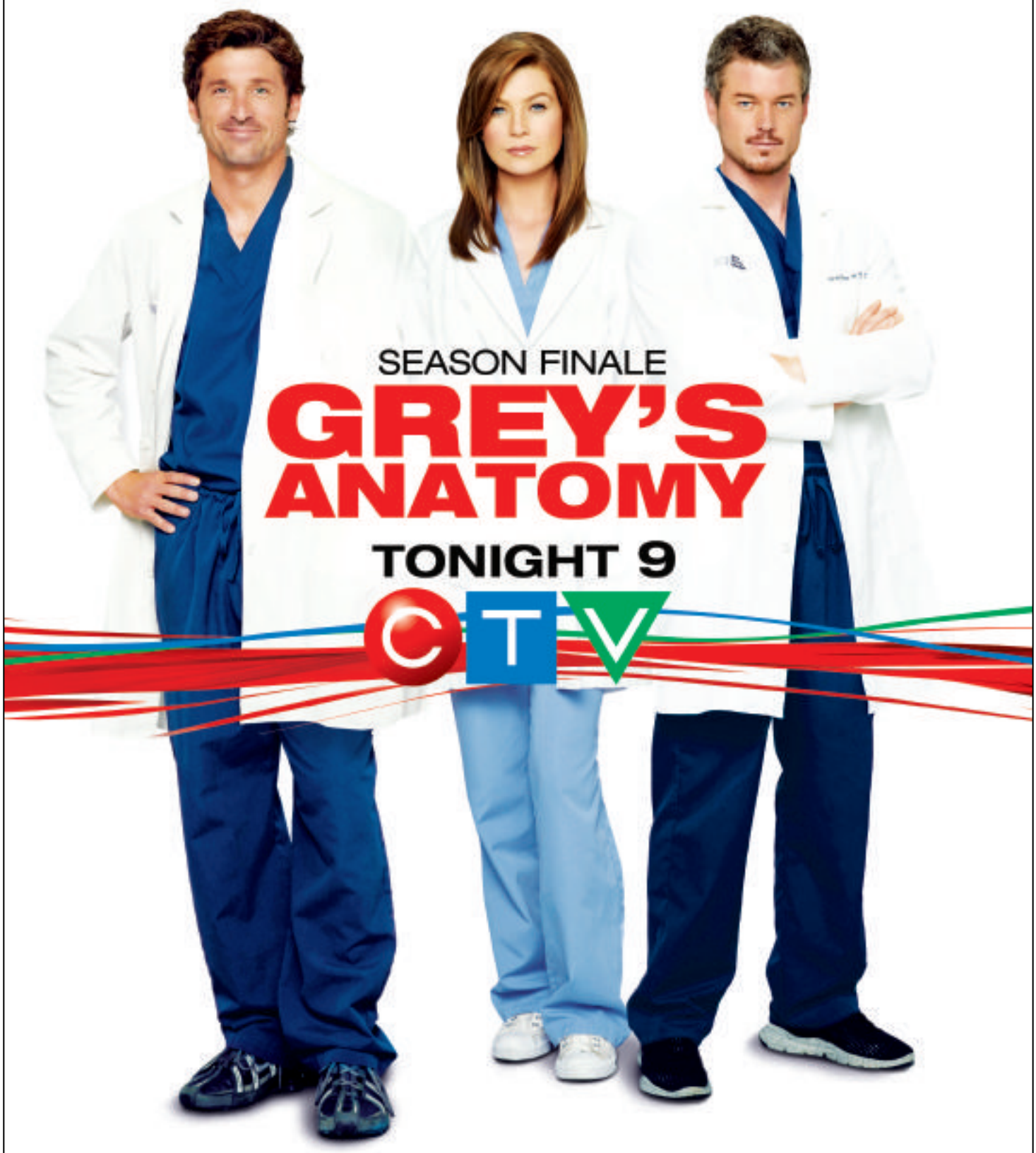


Butting out depends on social circle: Study

New research may lead to better quitting programs

Your chance of butting out for good might depend on the company you keep.

U.S. researchers have found the decision to quit smoking spreads through social networks, with groups of people — whether family, friends or even co-workers — kicking the habit at the same time.

"People quit in droves," says study co-author Nicholas Christakis, a physician and professor at Harvard Medical School. "The decision to quit smoking is not made solely by isolated individuals, but appears to be a property of groups or collective decisions.

Experts say the study, published yesterday in the New England Journal of Medicine, may help public health officials come up with better programs to help prevent and reduce smoking.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ontario numbers

» According to the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, roughly 1.7 million adult Ontarians smoke and about 62 per cent say they intend to quit smoking in the next six months.

»news In Brief

» **DEATHS** Ontario Provincial Police say autopsies conducted Tuesday confirm a man and woman found dead last Friday in a remote cabin on Thor Lake, north of Sudbury, were victims of "foul play." Police say they are treating the investigation as a double homicide and are not releasing the cause of death.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Share citizen info: Official

Public funds will be squandered and the privacy of Canadians will be endangered if Ottawa doesn't pass on citizenship information to provinces that want to offer high-tech drivers' licences as an alternative for crossing the Canada-U.S. border, Ontario's information and privacy commissioner warned yesterday.

The federal government is forcing provinces to build their own extensive databases from scratch, which will waste money and create a "magnet" for identity thieves, said Ann Cavoukian.

She said she wrote to Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day and Citizenship and Immigration Minister Diane Finley about the problem.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Accused dad **Court bound**

TROY FLEECE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Christopher Pauchay, followed by his father, arrives in court yesterday in Rose Valley, Sask. Pauchay, accused of leaving his two young daughters to freeze to death on the Yellow Quill Reserve, did not say a word in his first court appearance. When the judge asked if he understood the charges, he just nodded. The case is adjourned until June 11.

Obama Canada's pick: Poll

Democrat Barack Obama would crush Republican John McCain in the U.S. presidential race by an almost four-to-one margin — 56 per cent to 15 — if it were up to Canadians.

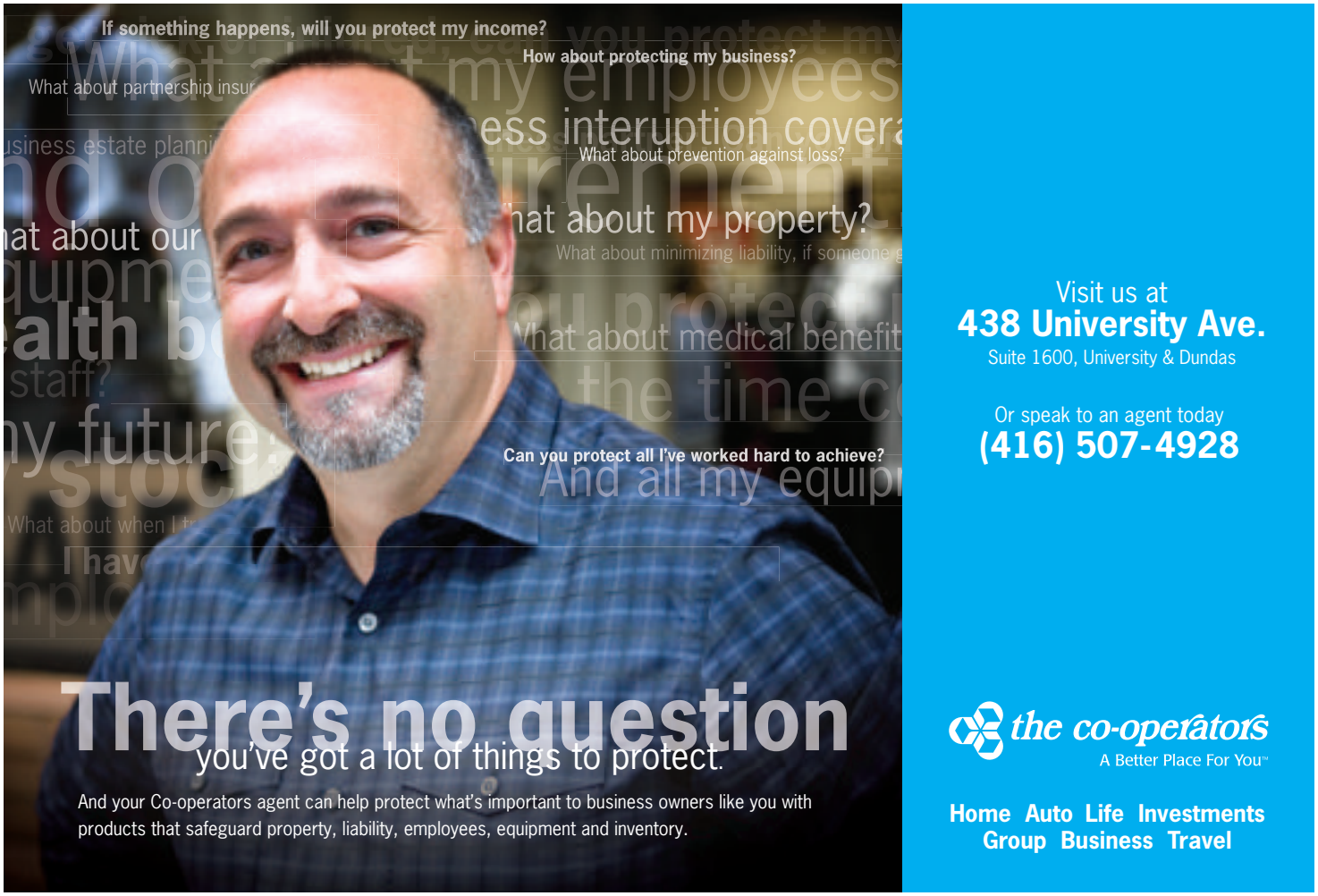
That's the conclusion of a new Canadian Press-Harris-Decima poll that, for the first time, gauges Canadian opinion on the Republican candidate and the presumptive Democratic nominee.

Bush

» Forty-two per cent of respondents called George W. Bush one of the worst presidents in U.S. history, 23 per cent said he was the absolute worst.

"While Canadians generally tilt more towards the Democratic Party than the Republican Party, this degree of disaffection is quite remarkable," said the head of Harris-Decima Bruce Anderson.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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world

A missing parrot in Japan was returned to its owner after identifying itself as "Mr. Yosuke Nakamura" to a vet. The parrot also provided its full home address, down to the street number. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Found in the rubble

Woman rescued nine days after earthquake

A Chinese news agency said a woman was rescued yesterday, nine days after being trapped in a tunnel at a hydropower plant by the massive earthquake to hit Sichuan province.

Also yesterday, Chinese leaders moved to contain the political aftershocks of last week's deadly earthquake, promising a big rebuilding fund, reining in the recently aggressive media and trying to keep despair from turning to anger in the disaster zone.

Although Beijing has mounted an energetic military mobilization in response to a quake that has left an estimated 50,000 dead and five million homeless, the immense challenge means help is not arriving fast enough.

Mindful of the problem and the growing discontent, Premier Wen Jiabao announced a $10-billion reconstruction fund. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

torch relay

» The Olympic torch resumes its journey through China today after a three-day period of mourning for victims of the country's earthquake.

Senegal **Stranded whales**

REBECCA BLACKWELL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Men try to stop a whale from swimming ashore yesterday in Dakar, Senegal. Residents struggled yesterday morning to save some of the more than 80 whales that were stranded on the beach Tuesday night. At least 20 lay dead on the beach by midday yesterday.

»news In Brief

» **MIDEAST** Israel and Syria unexpectedly announced yesterday the resumption of peace talks after an eight-year break, saying they have been speaking indirectly through Turkish mediators "in order to achieve the goal of comprehensive peace."

» **TROOPS** South Africa's president has given the go-ahead to use troops to quell violent attacks against immigrants in the Johannesburg area. It would be the first time troops have been sent into Johannesburg's townships since the end of apartheid in 1994. At least 42 people have been killed in the violence and some 16,000 people have been displaced.

» **SPICY SITUATION** A dispute over a cellphone call on a subway train in Vienna, Austria, has ended up with 19 people in hospital. After a man complained a woman was talking too loudly on her cellphone, the woman discharged pepper spray, injuring 17 nearby schoolchildren and their teacher, as well as herself. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Northumberland Mall

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Cookstown Outlet Mall (kiosk)

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Two Park Centre

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Sherway Gardens
Woodbine Centre

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LINDSAY
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Whitney Town Centre

MAPLE
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MARKHAM
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Markville Shopping Centre
Pacific Mall

MILTON
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MISSISSAUGA
980 Eglinton Ave. E.
2800 Skymark Ave., #6
6965 Davand Dr., #12
Dixie Value Mall
Erin Mills Town Centre
Heartland Power Centre
Sheridan Centre
Smart Centres Westgate
Square One Shopping Centre
Square One Shopping Centre – kiosk

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Bayview Village
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Empress Walk
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North York Sheridan Mall
Sheppard Centre
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Save lives, forget politics, Ban says

UN boss to visit cyclone-ravaged Myanmar today

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon urged everyone involved in Myanmar relief efforts to focus on saving lives not on politics yesterday, a day before the start of his planned visit to the cyclone-ravaged country.

Myanmar's junta, meanwhile, shunned a U.S. proposal for its naval ships and helicopters to deliver aid to cyclone survivors after apparently agreeing to allow UN aircraft to begin delivering aid to outlying areas.

The UN says up to 2.5 million survivors of cyclone Nargis face hunger, homelessness and potential outbreaks of deadly diseases.

"This is a critical moment for Myanmar," Ban told reporters after arriving in Bangkok, Thailand. "The government itself acknowledges that there has never been a disaster on this scale in the history of their country … The issues of assistance and aid in Myanmar should not be politicized. Our focus now is on saving lives."

Ban was scheduled to fly to Myanmar today on a mission to scale up relief efforts and lobby the junta to allow more foreign aid workers into the isolated country.

He told reporters his two-day visit would include a trip to areas devastated by the cyclone and talks with officials, including junta leader Senior Gen. Than Shwe.

At least 78,000 people were killed in the May 2-3 storm and 56,000 remain missing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

orphanages

» Myanmar's military junta plans to set up orphanages for the hundreds of children whose parents died in the recent cyclone. UNICEF's representative in Myanmar, Ramesh Shrestha, says the agency believes the number of children left without guardians is more than 600 and could rise.

Art? Trying to find the inner balance

SALVATORE DI NOLFI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

German artist Arnd Drossel runs in his steel ball "Inner Balance" yesterday on the lake in Geneva, Switzerland, during training. Drossel will make a performance today by crossing the Rade of Geneva as part of a meeting of associations of the mental health alternative.

Presidential vote will be a close one

On the surface, it looks like it should be a cakewalk for Democrats determined to retake the White House this fall.

Republicans have presided over a deeply unpopular war in Iraq. The economy is tanking. Gas is headed to $4 a gallon and Americans are still losing their homes in a mortgage crisis that's swept the country.

George W. Bush has become the most unpopular modern president.

Eighty per cent of Americans are gloomier about the direction of the country than at any point since 1992.

And yet.

Even as Barack Obama closes in on the Democratic nomination, his latest contests against Hillary Clinton have revealed a host of problems he'll have to address to marshal a winning coalition.

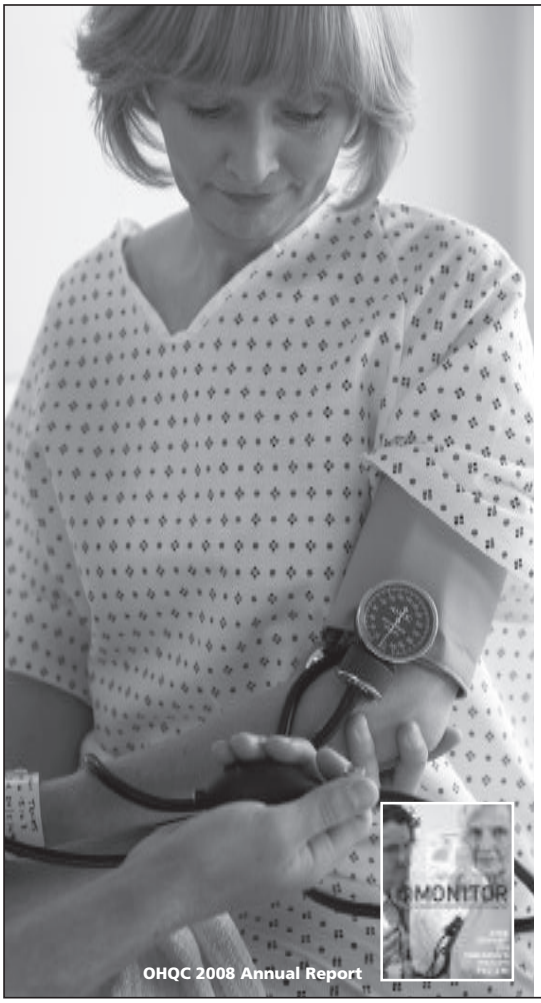
National polls consistently peg Republican John McCain as only narrowly trailing Obama, or Clinton for that matter.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

»news In Brief

» **KENYA** A group of up to 300 young men killed 11 people who were accused of being witches and wizards in western Kenya, in some cases slitting their throats or clubbing them to death before burning their bodies, officials said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



IS YOUR HEALTH-CARE SYSTEM THERE FOR YOU WHEN YOU NEED IT?

Accessible health care means people getting the right care at the right time in the right setting by the right provider.

Ontario is meeting this goal in many respects. The Ontario Wait Times Strategy, for example, has successfully reduced wait times for cataract surgery (down from 311 to 118 days), knee replacements (from 440 to 253 days), hip replacements (351 to 198 days) and cancer surgeries (81 to 57 days).

But access to other parts of our health-care system still needs improvement:

- **Access to family doctors:** over 60% of Ontarians say they can't get to see their doctor within two days of becoming sick; 42% feel they don't get to spend enough time with their doctor; and 39% say they aren't always told about treatment options and involved in decisions about their treatment.
- **Finding a family doctor:** while over 90% of Ontarians have a family doctor the percentage is lower in some parts of the province and for new immigrants. About 400,000 Ontarians want a doctor, have tried to find one, but can't. Meanwhile, only about 10% of family doctors are taking new patients, down from 40% seven years ago.
- **MRI scans:** despite a near doubling of MRIs, wait times haven't gone down significantly. As the supply of scans goes up, so too does the demand for them.

What can you do?

The Ontario Health Quality Council discusses these important issues and more in their 2008 report, now available at **www.ohqc.ca**. Please visit our website to learn more.

Ontario
Ontario Health Quality Council
Conseil ontarien de la qualité des services de santé

The Ontario Health Quality Council is an independent agency funded by the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. The Council reports directly to Ontarians on access to publicly funded health services, human resources in health care, consumer and population health status, outcomes of the health system. The Council also has a mandate to support quality improvement in the health-care system.

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MYNTA hanging planter $11.99 was ~~$19.99~~.
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SOMMAR hanging planter $7.79/ea was ~~$12.99~~/ea.
Assorted colours. Earthenware. Frost resistant.
Galvanized steel wire. Ø15×H12cm.

MYNTA plant pot $23.99
was ~~$39.99~~. Black. Earthenware.
Frost resistant. Ø52×H17cm.

BÅLSÖ plant pot
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BÅLSÖ series. White. Earthenware. Frost resistant.
Plant pot $7.79 was ~~$12.99~~. Ø26×H15cm. **Saucer $3 was ~~$5~~.**
Ø32×H4cm. **Plant pot $10.19 was ~~$16.99~~.** Ø39×H24cm.
Saucer $7.20 was ~~$12~~. Ø43×H5cm.

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business

Dollar		Oil	
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Zimbabwe's inflation rate now exceeds 1 million per cent and will likely reach about 5 million per cent by October, experts say. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Air travel costs rising

Air Canada to make pricing more transparent

Air Canada vowed yesterday to be more up front about ticket prices as it prepares to weather consumer backlash over the rapidly escalating cost of air travel.

"We'll see how much the customer can absorb and still plan on travelling," president and CEO Montie Brewer told reporters after Air Canada's annual meeting in Montreal.

He indicated the dramatic jump in oil prices has hammered Air Canada's operating costs and hinted consumers can expect to pick up at least part of the tab.

Air Canada came under fire this month for the way it discreetly tacked on a fuel surcharge to its tickets prices. While rival WestJet took out newspaper advertisements to inform its clients of a similar new charge, Air Canada buried the surtax on its website.

Brewer said fuel surcharges will now be included in new advertisements for the airline.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

wise move

» Airline industry observers point out that greater transparency is important from a marketing sense, helping correct suspicions about price gouging.

Zeppelin **Maiden flight**

FELIX KAESTLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A new zeppelin takes off yesterday in Friedrichshafen, Germany, for its maiden flight. In the fall, the zeppelin is expected to be shipped to the U.S. The new owners will be Airship Ventures in Moffett Field, Calif.

Break for cellphone users in the U.S.?

Plan to ease pain of cancellation fee

The U.S. government is quietly negotiating to help cellphone customers avoid expensive fees when they cancel contracts.

Under a proposal to the U.S. Federal Communications Commission, the wireless industry would give consumers the opportunity to cancel service without any penalty for up to 30 days after they sign a contract or until 10 days after they receive their first bill. The proposal also would cap such fees and reduce them month by month over the course of a contract.

In exchange for the government's approval, the agreement would let cellphone companies off the hook in state courts where they are being sued for billions of dollars by angry customers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

»news In Brief

» **RATES** U.S. Federal Reserve officials have strongly suggested they won't cut interest rates further even as they sharply downgraded their forecast for economic growth this year and raised their inflation forecast by a full percentage point.

» **LEAK** Cameco Corp. is examining the possibility that uranium, arsenic and fluorides may have seeped into Lake Ontario from its Port Hope nuclear conversion plant, but says no changes have yet been detected. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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»news In Brief

» **HYBRID** Honda will sell a new, improved and affordable gas-electric hybrid in North America, Japan and Europe starting in early 2009, the company president said yesterday. The new model, to be sold solely as a hybrid, is a key part of Honda Motor Co.'s strategy for the next three years that President Takeo Fukui outlined at Tokyo headquarters. In addition to the new hybrid, Honda will introduce several other hybrids: a Civic, a new sporty model based on the CR-Z and a Fit subcompact, sold as the Jazz in Europe, Fukui said.

» **RECYCLE** Poly-Pacific International, a company specializing in the reclamation of industrial waste, says testing suggests there are 10.4 million kilograms of waste nylon that could be available for recovery from a Kingston, Ont. landfill. Boreholes drilled at the site found nylon close to the surface and down as far as 10 metres.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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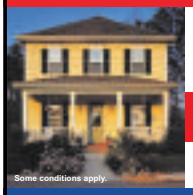
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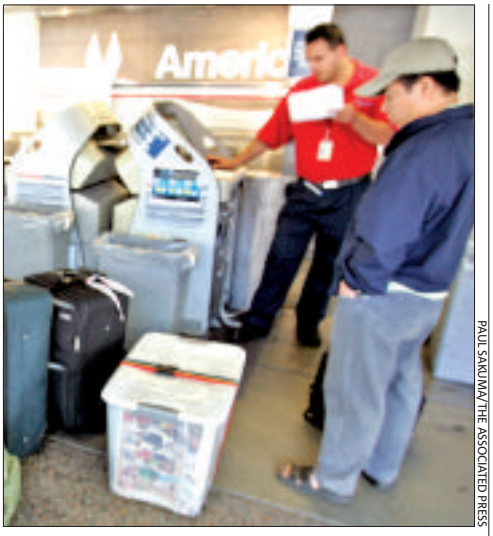

PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An American Airlines passenger checks in seven pieces of luggage at San Jose airport in San Jose, Calif., yesterday.

Fee for checked bag

American Airlines will start charging $15 US for the first checked bag, cut domestic flights and lay off possibly thousands of workers as it grapples with record-high fuel prices.

Parent AMR Corp. said reduced flying will lead to an undisclosed number of job cuts at both American and its American Eagle subsidiary.

American said yesterday the fee for the first checked bag starts June 15 and that it would raise other fees for services ranging from reservation help to oversized bags. The other fees will mostly range from $5 to $50 per service, it said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pump prices rise slower

Gas not soaring at same pace as crude oil: Survey

Oil prices have doubled from where they were a year ago, surpassing yet another record of $133 US yesterday.

Yet the prices at the pump, while painfully high, have not risen in tandem.

According to this week's pump price survey by energy consulting firm MJ Ervin, Canadians paid on average $1.27 to fill up their tanks. Last May the average price was about $1.12 per litre. It's a significant increase, but not nearly as dramatic as that of crude oil, which was worth $66 US a barrel last May.

Every May, Petro-Canada posts a gas-price pie chart at its stations across Canada explaining to consumers the breakdown of the final pump price.

This year's recently-released posters say 48 per cent of the price was from crude oil; 32 per cent was taxes; 17 per cent was refining costs and the 3 per cent left over was profit.

When Petro-Canada first started posting the gas price pie chart in 2000, crude costs only took up 30 per cent of the pie, while taxes were 51 per cent, according to the company's Pump Talk blog.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harper says...

» Canadians should not look to Ottawa for a gas-tax break as such measures would do little to slash prices at the pumps, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said yesterday.

» Gas prices were the big impetus behind April inflation, which rose to an annual 1.7 per cent. Without gasoline, it would have been 1.3 per cent.

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sports

Jeremy Roenick, left, agreed to a one-year contract yesterday to return to the San Jose Sharks. Roenick, a 19-year veteran, had 14 goals and 19 assists for the Sharks this past season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TFC stretch streak to 6

Toronto avenges early season loss

TORONTO FC 1 D.C. UTD 0

Danny Dichio scored the game's lone goal and Toronto FC extended its unbeaten streak to six games with a 1-0 win over D.C. United in Major League Soccer action last night.

Dichio scored in the seventh minute to open the home-and-home series as Toronto (4-2-2) avenged a 4-1 loss to D.C. (2-7-0) in United's home opener on April 5. Since then, Toronto hasn't lost a game.

Dichio, bothered by a groin injury recently, capitalized after D.C. defender Devon McTavish failed to get much of his foot on a poor back pass. With United goalie Zach Wells out of position and sprawled on the ground, Dichio tipped it home while being hauled down by McTavish for his second goal of the year, delighting a crowd of 19,791 on a damp, crisp evening.

Toronto, 4-0-2 since the loss against D.C. on April 5, is unbeaten in its past seven games at noisy BMO Field, a streak that dates back to last September for the second-year franchise.

It was Toronto's first win against D.C. in five attempts. The teams meet again Saturday at RFK Stadium.

RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto FC forward Danny Dichio ties up Clyde Simms of D.C. United last night during Major League Soccer action at BMO Field. Dichio scored the eventual game winner in the first half.

Toronto goalie Greg Sutton recorded his fourth shutout in the past five games. He had to be sharp in the 64th minute when he got right in front of Brazilian-born midfielder Fred to block a header from in close after a wonderful cross from Marcelo Gallardo. The rebound ended up back at Fred's foot, but it deflected high and wide.

A minute later, Sutton leaped to pull down a tricky long shot from Jaime Moreno.

With the win, Toronto FC jumped into fourth in the seven-team Eastern Division. D.C. United is last.

Aside from Dichio's goal, the first half was relatively dull. D.C. United had the better chances as Luciano Emilio fired a shot high from just inside the penalty area in the 11th minute. Later in the first half, Toronto defender Tyrone Marshall made a nice diving block on a shot from Santino Quaranta.

Toronto is finding a way to notch points despite having trouble scoring goals. TFC has just two goals in its past three games.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bulls' luck could rub off on Raps

T.O. examining trade prospects

Now that the NBA draft lottery is out of the way, the shopping can start in earnest for the Raptors.

And from the school of "one team's misfortune is another team's opportunity," there are those within the organization who think things worked out just swimmingly Tuesday night.

Rose

Chicago winning the right to the No. 1 pick in the June 26 draft, knocking the favoured Miami Heat down to No. 2, was "not a bad thing," according to one voice within the Toronto hierarchy.

The scenario the Raptors envision is:

The Bulls, who have soured completely on Kirk Hinrich as their point guard, take Memphis' Derrick Rose, a Chicago product represented by an agent with close ties to the Bulls organization, with the No. 1 pick.

That leaves the Heat to decide whether they want Kansas State power forward Michael Beasley and, if they do, Miami will still be in the market for an accomplished point guard, something Toronto has in T.J. Ford and Jose Calderon.

No one from the Raptors was talking in specifics yesterday, but the chance to move either Ford or Calderon could net someone like power forward Udonis Haslem in some kind of package deal.

And with the way general manager Bryan Colangelo likes to think, there's even a likelihood he'll ask about the availability of the No. 2 pick in some kind of blockbuster trade.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

»sports In Brief

» **NBA** Raptors guard Anthony Parker had surgery yesterday to repair an injured extensor tendon in the middle finger of his right hand. Parker must wear a cast for three weeks before he can begin rehabilitation.

» **BASKETBALL** The Canadian men's team will face the United States in an exhibition game on July 25 in Las Vegas as part of the State Farm USA Basketball Challenge.

» **NFL** New Orleans Saints defensive end Will Smith skipped an optional off-season training session yesterday, apparently because he is unhappy with his contract.

» **NFL** Jacksonville Jaguars defensive tackle Tony McDaniel agreed to a contract extension yesterday. No details were released by the team.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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MLB

Pedro goes home to see ill father

FAMILY Pedro Martinez returned to the Dominican Republic to be with his sick father yesterday, delaying plans to test his ailing hamstring.

Martinez had planned to rejoin the New York Mets for a bullpen session yesterday.

Martinez, 36, has been on the disabled list since April 2 with a strained left hamstring.

MLB

Jeter returns to Yankees' lineup

INJURIES Derek Jeter was in the New York Yankees' lineup yesterday against Baltimore, one night after getting hit on the left hand by a pitch.

In other injury news, Yankees ace Chien-Ming Wang has a mild strain of his right calf but is not expected to miss a turn in the rotation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCOREBOARD

NHL

STANLEY CUP FINAL
PITTSBURGH VS. DETROIT

Game 1 — Saturday
Pittsburgh at Detroit, 8
Game 2 — Monday
Pittsburgh at Detroit, 8
Game 3 — Wednesday, May 28
Detroit at Pittsburgh, 8
Game 4 — Saturday, May 31
Detroit at Pittsburgh, 8
*Game 5 — Monday, June 2
Pittsburgh at Detroit, 8
*Game 6 — Wednesday, June 4
Detroit at Pittsburgh, 8
*Game 7 — Saturday, June 7
Pittsburgh at Detroit, 8
(* – if necessary)

NBA

CONFERENCE FINALS
EASTERN CONFERENCE
BOSTON VS. DETROIT

Game 1 — Tuesday
Boston 88 Detroit 79
Game 2 — Tonight
Detroit at Boston, 8:30
Game 3 — Saturday
Boston at Detroit, 8:30
Game 4 — Monday
Boston at Detroit, 8:30
*Game 5 — Wednesday, May 28
Detroit at Boston, 8:30
*Game 6 — Friday, May 30
Boston at Detroit, 8:30
*Game 7 — Sunday, June 1
Detroit at Boston, 8:30
(Boston leads series 1-0)

WESTERN CONFERENCE
L.A. LAKERS VS. SAN ANTONIO

Game 1 — Last night
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers
Game 2 — Tomorrow
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 9
Game 3 — Sunday
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, 8:30
Game 4 — Tuesday
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, 9
*Game 5 — Thursday, May 29
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 9
*Game 6 — Saturday, May 31
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, 8:30
*Game 7 — Monday, June 2
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 9
(* – if necessary)

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	29	19	.604	—
Tampa Bay	27	20	.574	1½
Baltimore	24	20	.545	3
TORONTO	**23**	**24**	**.489**	**5½**
N.Y. Yankees	20	25	.444	7½

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago Sox	24	20	.545	—
Minnesota	23	22	.511	1½
Cleveland	22	23	.489	2½
Kansas City	21	24	.467	3½
Detroit	18	27	.400	6½

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
L.A. Angels	27	20	.574	—
Oakland	25	23	.521	2½
Texas	22	25	.468	5
Seattle	18	28	.391	8½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Florida	25	19	.568	—
Atlanta	24	21	.533	1½
Philadelphia	25	22	.532	1½
N.Y. Mets	22	21	.512	2½
Washington	20	27	.426	6½

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago Cubs	28	18	.609	—
St. Louis	27	21	.563	2
Houston	26	21	.553	2½
Milwaukee	22	24	.478	6
Cincinnati	21	25	.457	7
Pittsburgh	21	25	.457	7

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Arizona	28	17	.622	—
L.A. Dodgers	24	21	.533	4
San Francisco	19	29	.396	10½
Colorado	18	29	.383	11
San Diego	17	30	.362	12

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE
L.A. Angels at **TORONTO**
Oakland 9 Tampa Bay 1
Seattle at Detroit
Kansas City at Boston
Baltimore at N.Y. Yankees
Texas at Minnesota
Cleveland at Chicago W. Sox
NATIONAL LEAGUE
San Francisco 3 Colorado 2
Milwaukee 4 Pittsburgh 1
N.Y. Mets at Atlanta
Arizona at Florida
Philadelphia at Washington
Chicago Cubs at Houston
St. Louis at San Diego
Cincinnati at L.A. Dodgers

TODAY'S GAMES

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Seattle at Detroit, 1:05
Texas at Minnesota, 1:10
Kansas City at Boston, 1:35
Baltimore at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05
L.A. Angels at **TORONTO**, 7:07
Cleveland at Chicago W. Sox, 8:11
NATIONAL LEAGUE
Milwaukee at Pittsburgh, 7:05
N.Y. Mets at Atlanta, 7:10
Arizona at Florida, 7:10
Philadelphia at Houston, 8:05
Cincinnati at San Diego, 10:05

AHL

AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE PLAYOFF GAMES FEATURING THE MARLIES:
TORONTO VS. CHICAGO

Game 4 — Last night
Chicago at **TORONTO**
*Game 5 — Tomorrow
TORONTO at Chicago, 8:30
(Chicago leads series 3-0)
(* – if necessary)

MEMORIAL CUP

SCHEDULE AND SCORES FOR THE CANADIAN HOCKEY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP IN KITCHENER:
ROUND-ROBIN

Last night
Kitchener vs. Belleville
SEMIFINAL
Tomorrow
Kitchener vs. Belleville, 7
FINAL
Sunday
Spokane vs. semifinal winner, 7

MLS

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER GAMES FEATURING TORONTO FC:
LAST NIGHT'S RESULT
TORONTO 1 D.C. United 0
SATURDAY'S GAME
TORONTO at D.C. United, 7:30

LOTTERIES

Results not available at press time.

Jays vs Angels
Thursday, May 22nd @ 7:07 pm

Jays vs Royals
Friday, May 23rd @ 7:07 pm
FLASHBACK FRIDAYS featuring Candy Maldonado* (member of the 1992 World Championship team), autograph signing at Gate 6A from 5:45 pm–6:30 pm.
Presented by TORONTO STAR thestar.com / THE FAN 590 Toronto's Sports Radio

SHOPPERS DRUG MART / Banana Boat
Saturday, May 24th @ 1:07 pm
SHOPPERS DRUG MART AND BANANA BOAT JR. JAYS SATURDAYS—After the game, kids under 14 get to run the bases just like the pros! Outdoor entertainment starts Saturday, May 24, two hours before game time.
Presented by TORONTO STAR thestar.com

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Sunday, May 25th @ 1:07 pm
Blue Jays Tote Bag Giveaway presented by the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) for the first 10,000 fans.

FOR TICKETS: 416.341.1234, 1.888.OK.GO.JAY or visit bluejays.com
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Man U delivers double

Premier League winners claim Champions title

MANCHESTER UNITED 1 CHELSEA 1 (6-5)

MICHAEL STEELE/GETTY IMAGES

Rio Ferdinand and Ryan Giggs, second from right, of Manchester United lift the trophy following their team's 6-5 victory over Premiership rivals Chelsea in the penalty shootout during the UEFA Champions League final yesterday in Moscow. It is the team's third European Cup title.

Edwin van der Sar saved the 14th penalty of the shootout yesterday to give Manchester United a 6-5 win over Chelsea after a 1-1 draw in the first all-English Champions League final.

Van der Sar dived to his right to block the spot kick from Nicolas Anelka in rain at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow to give the Red Devils their third European Cup title — 10 days after United edged Chelsea to win the Premier League title.

"That's the first penalty shootout I've ever won," said United manager Alex Ferguson, who took his haul of titles with the club to 22 in as many seasons since arriving in September 1986.

In a final that included a red card and all the flareups usually associated with meetings between English powerhouses, Cristiano Ronaldo put United ahead in the 26th minute. Frank Lampard drew level in the final minute of the first half.

In extra time, Chelsea hit the post and the bar before goalkeeper Petr Cech saved Ronaldo's penalty in the shootout. But Blues captain John Terry, stepping up for a chance to win the title, slipped and hit the right post.

"I was thinking he's going to score," Rio Ferdinand said of Terry, his defensive teammate on the England squad. "He's a great penalty taker normally but he slipped. Unfortunately, someone's got to lose and tonight it's them."

Anderson and Ryan Giggs — making a club record 759th appearance — then hit the target for United.

Chelsea finished the game with 10 men after Didier Drogba was sent off in the 116th minute for petulantly tapping Nemanja Vidic in the face with his hand.

Carlos Tevez, Michael Carrick, Calgary-born Owen Hargreaves and Nani scored United's other kicks, while Michael Ballack, Juliano Belletti, Lampard, Ashley Cole and Salomon Kalou scored for Chelsea.

"Twelve years ago I lost on penalties and we've won it now," said Van der Sar, who won the title with Ajax in 1995 but lost in a shootout to Juventus a year later. "It's unbelievable. We deserve it. It's fantastic."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Venus confirms for Rogers Cup

Venus Williams will make her first Rogers Cup appearance this summer in Montreal.

The 27-year-old American, who has won 36 career WTA Tour singles titles, is ranked eighth in the world. Williams confirmed her participation during a conference call yesterday from Paris, where she's getting ready for the French Open.

Williams

She said she has entered the Rogers Cup a couple times in the past but was unable to play due to injury.

"This year it's a great opportunity for me to play a top-level tournament in a city that I've never visited," Williams said. "And (I get) to meet all my fans that I've never met before so I'm really looking forward to it."

The tournament will be played July 26-Aug. 3.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

»sports In Brief

» **TENNIS** Canadian Stephanie Dubois was eliminated from the Istanbul Cup after losing her second-round match to Andreja Klepac yesterday. Dubois, of Laval, Que., dropped a 4-6, 6-2, 7-5 decision to the Slovene. Top-seeded Elena Dementieva of Russia advanced with a 6-2, 7-6 (4) win over Liana Ungur of Romania. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Metro's home renovations guide

» 02-15

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Monarch

Buyer beware

Onus on homeowners to do research to avoid hiring a scam artist

By **BRIAN TOWIE**
Metro Toronto

If a "pro" walks away with your cash, it can be difficult to get it back.

If the foundation of your research isn't as strong as the one under your house when you're looking for a home contractor, you could be opening yourself up to a swindle.

For the most part, home contractors are honest folks who take pride in making your home a better place for you to live. But lots of the "pros" out there are scammers who can see you coming from a mile away. When they part with your money after a job poorly done, if done at all, it can be difficult or even impossible to get that cash back. With that in mind, here are a few tips to help you discern the hardworking handyperson from the hardware-toting huckster.

There are lots of ways to do your homework before you do work on your home. To start, you're responsible for obtaining the building permit, but if your contractor says you don't need one, it's time to find a new contractor, says Gemma Broderick, executive director for the Crime Prevention Association of Toronto.

"Generally, if someone's going to have work done on their home, it should be the homeowner initiating the research into who they're going to get to do the work rather than vice versa," adds Det. Rick Penstone of the Toronto Police Service's Fraud Squad.

Demand references: Good contractors who stand on their record won't think it's too forward of you. Note that you'll probably never get a bad reference out of a contractor, but if the person to whom they refer you doesn't sound entirely satisfied with their work, alarm bells should ring.

Check for a specialized licence, which some trades require (such as plumbers and electricians). You can also conduct a search through the Better Business Bureau to see if any complaints have been filed against the contractor or the company. You should also check if your municipal or provincial government keeps business grievances on file: Ontario's Ministry of Government and Consumer Services has a database on who has been engaging in unfair business practices, for example.

Also beware of the get-rich-quick types. Contractors can often give you outrageous estimates for relatively easy work. Penstone and Broderick both advise you to get several estimates in writing (at least three different ones for the same job), and never trust a contractor who quotes flat rates before even inspecting your home.

Avoid the cash "deal." It can often lead to out-of-the-blue charges that end up costing you more. The contract is the best record you'll have should something go wrong. To begin with, it should have basic contact and GST information, a detailed breakdown of materials and labour costs, and a clear start and completion date. Final costs may match the estimate plus 10 per cent; anything more than that is illegal. When you sign, you may be asked for some money upfront: Anything over 20 per cent of the total cost of the contract is usually considered unreasonable.

"Keep deposits or down payments to a minimum and never pay the full amount until all the work has been completed," says Broderick. "You may want to get a lawyer to examine the contract — especially if a large sum of money is involved."

what you might hear from a fraudster:

- "It's a super deal but it's only good for today! You should act now."
- "I'll cut that price if you pay cash."
- "I'm just in the neighbourhood and I noticed your home could use some work. For $500, I'll go get some materials and get started."
- "Thirty per cent is a standard down payment."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Experts advise homeowners to do their research before hiring a contractor — even though many are honest folks who take pride in their work.

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: The addition to Sylvia Putz's house is modern — in contrast to the front of the house, which was kept in the character of the neighbourhood. The bathtub in the master bathroom now has a great view of the backyard, and the view from the grand room into the backyard shows a full wall of windows. The back entrance from the terrace into the grand room is a welcome change. There is still lots of work to be done, but Putz — seen here on her terrace — hopes to be barbecuing by mid-summer.

PHOTOS BY SYLVIA PUTZ/FOR METRO TORONTO

Renovation revelations

Advance planning can build upon perfect home addition

By **SYLVIA PUTZ**
for Metro Toronto

Our family is in the enviable position of being on the almost-finished side of a large addition and interior renovation. And, overall, the reno was an incredible adventure for the family — one that we had dreamed about for years. We ended up with a gorgeous house that fits us like a glove. What could be better?

Well, getting there was not always as smooth as we wished. The process was actually fun most of the time, but in the final analysis, we realized some of our mistakes ended up costing us a lot of extra cash.

In a nutshell, most of our mistakes were largely the result of not planning enough. For those of you contemplating doing a reno, here is our advice, straight from the school of hard knocks.

» Make changes during the planning stage, not the construction stage. Paul Catania of Verly Construction, the head of the company that managed our renovation, puts it plainly: "If it's well-planned, and you work through the model at an early stage, you're set. Four months of doing that would have saved six months of work later on."

» Our architect, Tony D'Andrea of Torplan Consultants Inc., agrees. "One of the biggest problems is that people don't give themselves enough time — give yourself at least six months for planning, and six to eight months for construction." He emphasizes the planning must be thorough — including reviewing every aspect of the plan, city permit requirements, parking issues, and a myriad other details.

> *« If it's well-planned, and you work through the model at an early stage, you're set. Four months of doing that would have saved six months of work later on. »*
>
> *Paul Catania, Verly Construction*

» In our case, one of the things we did wrong was hire an interior designer after drywall walls and ceilings were already in place. "It's a lot easier when you make changes before the drywall goes up," notes our on-site contractor Joe Rego, owner of Rego Contracting.

» Make decisions about precisely which fixtures and furniture you will buy as early as you can because the exact measurements of these items will dictate where switches, outlets and plumbing will be placed. Lina Pelaez, our construction co-ordinator from Verly Construction, notes wryly these types of decisions should be made before she calls in the trades.

» Be realistic. If you are combining old and new parts of a house during a renovation, budget for uniformity. Don't leave the old part as is, alongside a completely new renovation.

» Our assumptions that we would stay in the house for the duration of the renovation became ridiculous once renovation started in the old part. Rego sums it up succinctly: "With a large reno, move out. That way the contractor has the opportunity to work everywhere, inside and out."

» He also advises the construction site be emptied for a large project. Ours wasn't. "Freedom of movement makes a big difference in construction — it takes triple the time to move stuff up and down the stairs, and back again, and things are missed" when furniture is piled up along a wall. (Sorry about that, Joe.)

» Learn from your mistakes — you never know when you'll get the reno bug again.

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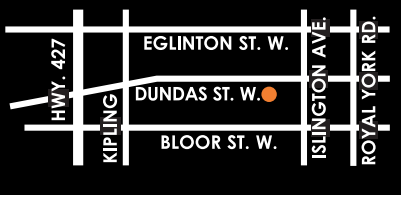

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BEAVERBROOK

Paper trail protects homeowner

Without records, no proof work was ever done

With the home renovation season upon us, you might be thinking of hiring a contractor. There are many reputable contractors in your community ready to do the work and willing to sign a contract to make sure both parties are satisfied when the job is done, and protected if something goes wrong.

Not all contractors play by the same rules, though, and if you get stung by one of these underground contractors, you could lose everything — your peace of mind, your savings, even your home.

Sound serious? It is. As the owner of the property where the work is taking place, you are legally responsible and liable for any damages or injuries that occur on your property, regardless if someone else is doing the work. If that contractor becomes injured, or causes a life-threatening hazard due to sloppy work, you can be sued. A professional contractor is covered by his own liability insurance.

Without a paper trail — no contract, no warranty, no estimate or invoice — there is absolutely no record that the work was done, who did the work, or that they were even paid.

If you participate in the underground economy, whether as a buyer or a seller, not only are you putting your own safety at risk, you are taking away tax dollars from the health-care system, government pension plans and employment insurance, to name a few.

Evading taxes is unfair to honest taxpayers and it's illegal. The Canada Revenue Agency has more than 1,000 full-time employees dedicated to catching these underground entrepreneurs, and once they find them, the result can be hefty fines or even jail time. NEWS CANADA

Without a contract, warranty, estimate or invoice, you are putting yourself at risk, experts warn.

canada's underground economy

» The underground economy refers to economic activity that is taxable, but isn't reported to tax authorities.

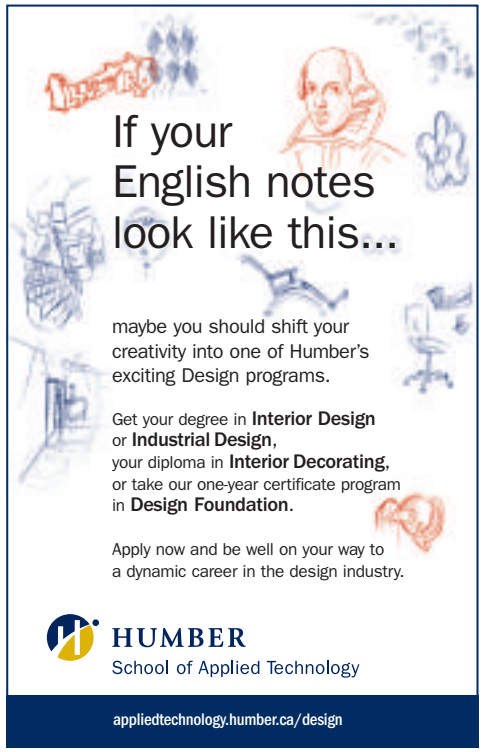
» Certain sectors are more vulnerable to underground activity such as construction and hospitality.

» Taking cash to avoid paying tax is cheating Canadians who do pay their taxes, businesses that have to compete with lower prices, and customers and workers who may not be covered if disaster strikes.

» It's a myth that taking cash and keeping no records makes you immune to taxes. If your lifestyle is not in line with the income you report, and you cannot explain the difference, your taxes will be assessed anyway based on an estimate of your income. You might then have to pay interest, penalties and even face prosecution.

» Cheaters do get caught as the Canada Revenue Agency has an aggressive program to detect and deter those Canadians who do not report their income.

» For more, go to the Taxpayer Alert section of *www.cra.gc.ca*, and click on the Underground Economy link. NEWS CANADA



Eco-conscious eye concrete

Concrete is king today in the more eco-conscious construction world. For example, an all-Canadian building system is now delivering double the insulation by constructing walls, ceilings and floors with pre-assembled, interlocking concrete forms.

This award-winning system by Nudura Corporation creates an entire, energy-efficient building envelope. It is reported to make the job much faster with less construction waste — and unlike wood structures, the concrete forms do not propagate mould growth.

In addition to energy savings of up to 70 per cent, there are other benefits:

» Up to 2 times more energy efficient — with technology that evens out the effect of external temperature swings.

» Up to 3 times more sound resistant. Its double-side EPS panels and insulated concrete core acts as an effective sound barrier.

» Up to 4 times more fire resistant since the walls are built with steel reinforced concrete and foam that is manufactured with a non-toxic fire retardant.

» Up to 9 times stronger because they allow nine times more axial load resistance, a superior feature in high-wind, tornado, or hurricane areas.

» Resistant to thermal bridging, where outside cold travels easily through walls to create uncomfortable cold spots, drafts, and mustiness inside the home. NEWS CANADA

Many ways to finance your home's improvement

Banks can incorporate cost into mortgage

By **ERIC EMIN WOOD**
for Metro Toronto

When financing renovations, there are several steps homeowners can take before upgrading their property.

"First of all, I would identify the work that needs to be done and make sure it will add value to the property," says Anthony Adrien, regional account manager with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). "(Homeowners) should also see at least three contractors and get some quotes on how much it would cost to get their renovations done."

First-time homebuyers can provide the quotes to their financial institution and — provided the renovations increase the value of their property — incorporate them into their mortgage. Typical renovations include kitchen repair, additional bathrooms, basement finishing and furnace replacement. Energy efficient upgrades are also popular.

If you're planning a major renovation, your bank will usually advance funds on the value the renovations add to the property.

"As long as it's fixed to the grounds, then it will increase the property's value," Adrien says. "A home stereo system, for instance, doesn't increase the value of the house because it can be removed at any time."

Existing homeowners should approach renovations in a similar manner. "It's the same process except they already own the home," says Adrien. "I would recommend they determine the work they want to do, get the costs associated with that work, approach their financial institution, and get the money."

Many homeowners, Adrien says, do the renovations themselves over the course of a year, relying on credit cards and only approach the bank when the work is finished. They attempt to refinance their home to pay off the credit card debt, only to be refused a loan because their bank believes the renovations didn't increase the value of their property.

"The advantage of doing it beforehand is the homeowner and financial institution are in agreement on the type of work to be done and by how much it'll increase the value of the property," says Adrien, "so there won't be any surprises after the fact."

If it's a major renovation, the bank will usually advance funds based on the value the renovations add to the property.

"Do your homework, research the type of renovations that are done, and get quotes from reputable contractors to make sure you're getting the best value for your buck," Adrien says.

» You can find more information on home renovations at *www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca*.

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Décor marries reno and existing space

Don't forget to spruce up 'old' sections of house

ARRESTING DESIGN
JEFFREY FISHER & TAMMY SCHNURR
busted@arrestingdesign.com

You can try to fool yourself about this one, but you won't fool anybody else.

We've seen the unfortunate end result of spending money on a lovely addition while leaving the old, cruddy part of the house as it always was.

Don't do it! We know the marriage of old lived-in space and shiny new renovation doesn't work.

Be realistic in the planning stage of your renovation — you'll need to budget for bringing the whole house up to a reasonable level of "newness." Many people who renovate are trying to save money, and actively avoid thinking about updating the "old" part. (It's called sticking your head in the sand.)

> *« Many people who renovate are trying to save money, so they actively avoid thinking about updating the 'old' part of their house. (It's called sticking your head in the sand.)»*

But believe us, you'll end up shelling out cash to fix it up sooner or later, and it will probably be sooner, because you can't stand to look at that glaring discrepancy any longer. It will bug you every single day you live in that house — it would certainly drive us loco.

Luckily, there are some decor basics in minimizing that divide, and in making the house with a new addition look more unified. And the cost factor may be much lower than you think.

The first thing is to choose paint colour for the whole house — it must work together.

Depending on the size of your reno, you can decide on the same colour for both the new section and the older one, or you can choose a complementary colour that looks good with all the other tones in the house.

Don't just paint the new section your favourite colour and expect it to look good with the existing house. It won't.

Trim is also important — baseboards, trim around windows and trim in any other place should be consistent. If you have wood trim in the old part, you will find that matching that trim is sometimes difficult, and wood nowadays is expensive. If you are doing a large reno, you may find that it is actually cheaper to rip out the old trimwork (ouch!), and replace it with the same painted MDF trim throughout the house.

Another consideration is flooring. If your reno combines old and new space in the same room, you will need to put in new flooring for the whole space.

If the addition is a separate room separated from the old space, you can get away with a change of flooring (such as tile up against wood), as long as it is complementary, both in color and in mood.

Remember that a well-used wood floor will look strange up against a high-gloss marble tile, for example. Keep the feel of the whole house similar.

TORSTAR FILE PHOTO

Post-reno, you'll want to ensure décor in the existing portion of your house doesn't clash with the new space. Paint colours, for example, must work for the whole house; paint chips by Farrow & Ball.

Metal fixtures, whether they be kitchen faucets, bathroom faucets or door handles, should be similar in look.

Keep the metal the same if possible. That is, use chrome throughout, or antique gold, but don't use one metal and style in the new section and leave another metal and style in the old section.

Last, but not least, do not decorate the new section in a style that is vastly different to that in the older part of the house.

Strive to bring the old and new together in terms of style, mood and colour.

After all, if the discrepancy between old and new is the most visible thing about your house, your beautiful new space won't shine the way it should.

Tammy Schnurr and Jeffrey Fisher are hosts of Arresting Design on W Network. Tammy is an interior decorator. Jeffrey designs home furnishings and bedding through his company Jeffrey Fisher Home.

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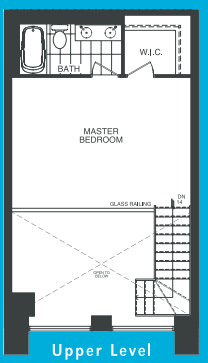

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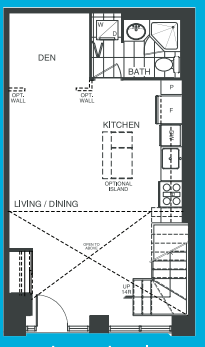

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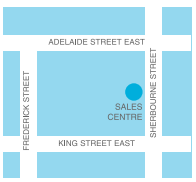

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Overhauling your outdoor living space

Use new lighting options to create more ambience

If you've just overhauled the interior of your house, chances are you'd like to bring your outdoor spaces up to scratch, too. One good place to start is the many new lighting options that add weatherproof style and ambience to entertaining areas.

"The trend towards expanding outdoor living space has been growing for some time now," says Richard Lentz, president of Lentz Landscape Lighting in Dallas, Texas. "In past years, our goal was focused on lighting the space and showing off the garden. Now we're concentrating a lot more effort on finding innovative ways to light outdoor spaces so they can be used at night, much like they're used during the day."

Backyard decks no longer just have a small light near the door. Lentz says lighting designers are now installing down lights in trees and attaching them to chimneys to shine light down on the space. "We're also putting in a lot of step lights to make the transition from the upper to lower level easier," says Lentz, who adds that people no longer have to feel like they're under a spotlight when they sit outside under the stars.

And when it comes to lighting outdoor kitchens, innovation is key. "We do a lot of task lighting in the outdoor kitchen," says Lentz. "We'll utilize the arbors to hang task lighting over the sink, the grill and the table, for example, and put them on dimmers so when the light isn't needed, it can be turned down."

Lentz credits the recent innovations offered by various lighting manufacturers for making those projects possible. "Technology sure has come a long way in a short amount of time," he says.

Joe Rey-Barreau, an education consultant for the American Lighting Association, agrees. "Manufacturers realize there's a growing market for outdoor fixtures and they have responded by stepping up to the challenge to develop chandeliers, table lamps and sconces that are rated for wet conditions so they can be safely installed outdoors," he says.

NEWS CANADA

SEA GULL LIGHTING PRODUCTS LLC

Chandeliers, table lamps and other lighting options now come in models that can put up with wet weather.

spa vs. hot tub

Thinking of installing a spa or hot tub while you're overhauling your outdoor space? Here are some things to keep in mind:

WHAT ARE THEY?

» Hot tubs are wooden barrels and spas are Fiberglas shells covered with acrylic or other plastic materials. (However, some hot tubs have acrylic liners, and some spas are free-standing with wood skirts.)

DESIGN

» Tubs and spas have other basic differences, too — maintenance, durability, operation and overall appearance. Tubs look rustic and natural; they blend well with decks, gardens, and patios. Spas present more design options and are available in a broad range of colours.

CLEANING

» Spas have hard, smooth surfaces that make them easier to clean. Because tubs have a wooden texture and typically more angles and corners, they're more of a challenge to clean and maintain.

INSTALLATION

» Support equipment and installations are similar, and both are available as free-standing packages or as separate components that require assembly. In either case, most building departments will require a permit for installation.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

» Be prepared for additional installation expense and maintenance costs. You will need at least one additional 110-volt electrical circuit (maybe 220v). Make sure your present electrical system can handle whatever is required.

» Also, some communities require a fence around the area, and most will require a lock on all gates. A fence is important: It protects both neighbourhood children and you.

» Your electrical bill can easily jump by $50 per month or more.

» You must chemically treat the water regularly.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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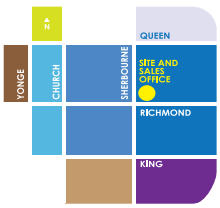

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Deciphering the condo market

Tridel's upcoming The Hullmark Centre is sure to change the look and feel of North York's skyline.

It seems this year, more so than in the past three or four years, people are more concerned than ever about our city's condo market, while at the same time more eager than ever to delve into it. I'm sure that everyone from your best friend, to your neighbour, to your boss, to your dog walker has given you their opinion on the market. If you're anything like most of my friends and clients you've heard a lot of different stories out there.

Here are a few hard facts that may be of interest to you. Last month a total of 8,762 resale homes were sold in the GTA. Last year's record high was 9,452. One of the major contributing factors was the dramatic decline in the 416 area, which is a direct result of the new Toronto Land Transfer Tax. The 416 area dropped more than double the rest of the GTA. As important as it is to be aware of the change, it's more important to understand why. The fact itself can be regurgitated at will but the "why" is what gives you knowledge and eventually wisdom. Understanding the "why" behind the change in these numbers means better assessing between a market adjustment and a market crash.

THE HUNT
AMIT PAUL
amitp@rogers.com

Before we assess, here's another fact. The average sale price in the Greater Toronto Area, for April, was $398,687. This number was actually a 5 per cent increase from last year's record April. Even in tax stricken 416 the average price rose 6 per cent to $446,781.

Of course these numbers include both houses as well as condos and that brings us to the real focus of this article — assessing the condo market.

First, the hard condo specific facts. The number of actual condo sales downtown Toronto has decreased by approximately 200, from about 1,200 last year to 1,000 this year. This time last year the average sale price of a downtown condo was $326,175. This year that number is $363,673.

The assessment means deciphering why such a reality exists. One assessment reveals that the driving reasons behind this phenomenon is the number of brand new condos bought from builders last year (not counted in these resale stats), which have made their way on to the resale market this year and successfully, it seems, judging by the jump in average sale price. That's the "why" behind the numbers.

The point is that if there's one thing these numbers show it's that the condo market, in terms of an investment at the very least, continues to be a successful one. While it may not be for everyone, it has not left its investors disappointed, and shows no signs of doing so at this time. Keep in mind that this dramatic price increase has occurred while the ink on the new Toronto tax remains wet.

Condo builders are aware of the market in infinitely more detail than most. It is no surprise therefore that Tridel plans to release North York's most anticipated new development The Hullmark Centre, soon.

I have been keeping up to speed on this development and can say that North York's skyline and general ambiance will dramatically change in the name of increased style and class, once The Hullmark Centre takes form.

In the meantime, remember what Neo was trying to achieve in the Matrix — every time you hear a so called fact, remember to try and enlighten yourself on the "why" behind it. Happy Hunting!

For any questions/comments on this article or anything in general please feel free to e-mail Amit at amitp@rogers.com. Amit is a Realtor/Developer with Re/Max.

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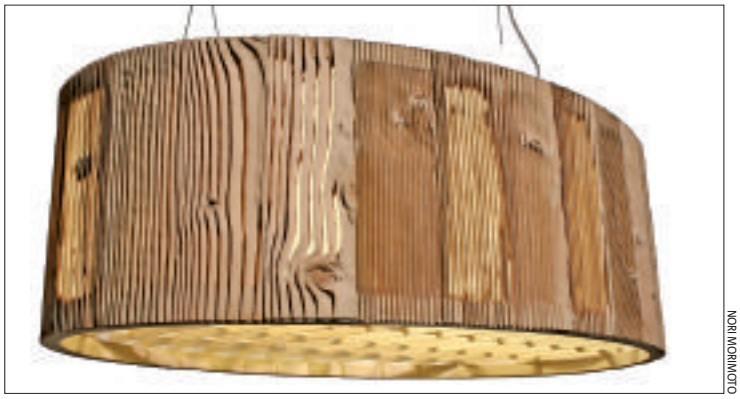

NORI MORIMOTO

This Forest pendant by Vermont craftsman Nori Morimoto was among the tactile items on display at New York's trend-setting International Contemporary Furniture Fair.

Fair goes big on tactile furnishings

For those who have to touch everything they see in stores, the International Contemporary Furniture Fair was more like Candyland.

In nearly every booth, there were irresistible surfaces to play with: Women with PDAs and sheaves of project plans hugged pillows. Stylish men slouched into fuzzy felted sofas.

And even the most soignee of sophisticates couldn't resist a quick fluff of the candy-pink wool rocking sheep.

And why fight it? Texture was a big theme at the show, with more than 600 exhibitors from every corner of the globe. Curvaceous stainless-steel chair legs were cool and smooth. Richly patterned wall hangings, when caressed, enveloped the arm. Burnished stone tiles were warm; thick piled rugs were luxuriously springy. Foam invited poking.

"I think people are looking to bring warmth and a real sense of livability into their homes, and texture is one of the best ways to accomplish that," said Ruth Gottesman of Alpha Workshops, which presented a Texture Collection of wall coverings.

Woods were everywhere, from Tucker Robbins' tamarind tables to Nori Morimoto's gently sculpted pendant lamps, to a whole host of unusual, exotic-looking laminates for cabinetry or walls. There was also a strong emphasis throughout on eco-friendly manufacturing processes; sustainably harvested trees, recycled metals and glass, low-impact dyes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clutter-hounds seem to have plenty of traits in common

ORGANIZED ZONE
BRENDA BORENSTEIN
metro@organizedzone.com

Does clutter cultivate creativity or crush it? You decide.

Clutter is getting a bad rap lately. In general, folks with out-of-control clutter are stigmatized, not unlike people who smoke or are overweight. But I can understand the comforts of a cluttered corner — I once lived on the other side of neat before changing my ways.

When life gets messy, it's usually reflected in our personal living spaces. A messy space always has a story to tell. I've found most cluttered people have traits in common:

» They're very sentimental about memories and want to keep all memorabilia.

» They don't like to be wasteful. If there's a chance they could use something someday, they want to keep it, just in case the opportunity arises.

» They have great intentions, always buying cleaning products and bins to help them get organized — one day, they'll get around to it.

» Many cluttered people also love to read and store information at home. They clip out tons of interesting articles from newspapers and magazines, and store them somewhere in a pile. They believe that sometime, they may want to refer to the article again.

» Then there are savvy sale-hunters, who find and snap up the best discounts, whether they need an item or not.

My own experience after meeting and working with all these folks, is that clutter can both cultivate and crush creativity.

But I also know that creating immediate visual clarity — whether straightening piles on a desk or putting away clothes thrown over a chair — can give anyone a boost.

Brenda Borenstein is your professional organizing guru. Look for her column every second Thursday. For more, visit www.organizedzone.com or call 416-665-2165. "There is nothing I haven't seen and nothing that can't be overcome."

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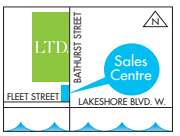

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Reno mania consumes DIY-ers

Big box stores offer workshops

By **RICK McGINNIS**
Metro Toronto

The giddy rise of house prices has made bricks and mortar real estate the surest investment most of us will make in our lifetimes, with the result that maintaining and upgrading our investment has become an international obsession. It's a phenomenon that's made hunky contractor Mike Holmes a star, and has filled primetime with countless reality DIY shows from Britain,

the U.S. and Canada, all of which have turned homeowning into a continuing domestic drama more compelling than the cooking of meals or the raising of kids — the activities that once seemed to occupy centre stage in our homes.

What we've learned from these shows is that the resale value of our home can be increased with an updating of our bathroom fixtures or an upscale backsplash behind the kitchen counter, while building a nagging anxiety that, hidden behind the plaster and drywall lurks a fiscal liability that could devalue our investment, a fear that becomes livid with the odour of mould in the basement, or with the dreaded words "knob and tube wiring."

While watching the heroic endeavours of Holmes, the high-camp makeover extravagance of Colin and Justin or the bleak comedy of Disaster DIY on HGTV, the knowing homeowner can't help but keep a running tally of what

PAUL BRADBURY/OJO IMAGES

We're encouraged to try and save money by renovating our homes ourselves, our writer says.

they're seeing, marvelling that every new circuit breaker panel or expanse of glass bathroom tiling would cost at least a week's wages. To that end, we're encouraged to try and save money and do it ourselves, with the proviso that, if we screw it up, we'd might as well have blown that money at the racetrack and hope that the avocado green bathroom will go from tacky to retro by the time we decide to sell up and move.

The biggest beneficiaries of the home reno mania have been big box stores such as Home Depot, Lowe's and Rona, and that boutique clubhouse for the house-proud obsessive, Lee Valley. They've made fortunes accessorizing our nesting, and have turned the hardware store from a storefront that smelled of paint and motor oil into vast warehouses, up to 120,000 square feet of drywall tape, flexible conduit and faucet sets that can strike the novice dumb with confusion.

They've also seen the need to teach us how to do all this stuff, right down to the basics of handling our brand new gear. ("Saving Time & Money Using Cordless Power Tool Combo Kits" is the name of a one-hour course Home Depot offers.) The workshops, seminars and clinics the DIY behemoths offer range from bluntly prescriptive ("Fence Building," "Deck and Fence Finishing" and "Laminate Floor Installation" are just three of the no-nonsense clinics Rona offers) to self-affirming (Home Depot's optimistic "You Can Install A Toilet" and "You Can Use A Mitre Saw to Build Frames") to the esoteric, and even academic (Lee Valley's seminars on "Design and Visualization" and "Women And Power Tools.")

Browsing the how-to offerings on the websites of the home reno stores, it becomes clear that, if only for liability's sake, none of them want to encourage us to aspire beyond a certain level of home reno competency. You might become a dab hand at drywalling or shingling one day, or aspire to replacing the plumbing fixtures in your kitchen and bathroom, but there are some jobs best left to professionals like plumbers and electricians, and the judgment of city inspectors. The pride and savings you might cherish at the end of a DIY endeavour is likely to wither away in the rosy glow of an electrical fire as it consumes the new addition you built to showcase your Star Wars memorabilia and add five grand to the resale value of your bungalow.

Dealing with neighbour disputes

Always a way to work things out: Councillor

By **SANDY CAETANO**
Metro Toronto

Giving your neighbours details about your upcoming home renovation project — such as how long the construction will last, what time the work will start in the morning, and if there will be dust and debris — is a great way to avoid disputes, experts suggest.

Off to a new renovations project, Joe Darragh, parked his truck in his client's shared driveway.

But what the owner and operator of residential and commercial renovators Blueprint Renovations (*blueprintrenovations.com*) didn't realize is that he would be encountering a not so happy neighbour who didn't have access to park his vehicle. The property line of his client's house isn't exactly in the middle of the drive.

So although Darragh's truck was parked where it should be, it still caused problems with the neighbour who couldn't get in or out of his driveway.

"It was just a one-day blowup sort of thing, but we worked everything out," says Darragh.

Problematic situations like these are common, and most escalate quickly and get more out of hand than necessary. So before starting any renovations, it's a good idea to talk to you neighbours, on both sides, and let them know what you have planned.

"I've heard of neighbours parking vehicles behind trucks so the trucks can't get out or in," Darragh tells Metro. "I've heard of them coming over and kicking in doors, throwing things ... these are things I've heard, I've never had experience with that."

Darragh says talking to your neighbour and informing them that they may be inconvenienced for a while is a good idea prior to doing anything. You could also get the contractor to talk to them as well.

"The contractor can inform them as to if you're going to have garbage bins show up, how long they'll be there for, how long the construction will last, if there's dust and debris that's going to be created," he says. "They'll also be able to let him know when construction is going to start in the morning and end at night, so typically 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. is pretty standard."

Of course, when most home renovations are going on, they require building permits to be issued. And once those have been issued, there's not much a neighbour can say or do about it.

However, Darragh says that doesn't mean the neighbour can't make things difficult by blocking a truck from getting in or out. So nipping these problems in the bud and trying to avoid them altogether is your best bet for things to run smoothly.

Cesar Palacio, city councillor for Toronto's ward 17, says these are problems most members of council encounter often. But as lousy as things may get, there's always a way of working things out.

"Very often, for example with fences and renovations, people have to get access to the neighbour's property," he says. "The problem sometimes is that neighbours have their own disputes because they don't speak to the neighbour about what they're doing."

At times, the problem is lack of communication between neighbours and it's not that difficult to get a compromise. Sometimes it is difficult, and you're not always successful with your attempts, adds Palacio, and then it could escalate to the point of getting lawyers involved.

There is a bylaw in place that allows the next-door neighbour to do repairs to his or her house by getting access to the neighbour's property.

"But you have to give notice in writing to that neighbour to let them know what you intend to do, and it's your responsibility to restore the property to its original state. So you cannot leave a mess behind or leave the neighbour's property damaged," he says.

So documenting what you're doing with before and after photos is always a good way to protect yourself from any future problems with your neighbour.

Communication key

Be honest about what you want: Experts

By **SANDY CAETANO**
Metro Toronto

There are tons of good contractors out there whose schedules are packed with one home renovation project after another — it's just tricky to find one who's not buried under a ton of rubble.

At this is the time of year, many homeowners want to redo a bathroom, the kitchen, or install a patio in the backyard. But when it comes to finding someone reliable to do the job, it can be a little difficult.

Before you even start doing the legwork to find a reputable contractor, you have to decide exactly what you want done first, suggests Margaret Mackay, founder of Renocontractors (*renocontractors.com*) — an online database of contractors created as a result of her own experience in the search for someone to redo her bathroom two years ago.

"Let's say you're doing a bathroom," she says. "If you see a tap you really like (in a paper or magazine) cut it out, the bathtub, the sink whatever. Anything that's going to go into your bathroom as something that you want, you should have a picture of so you can show the contractor, so you're both on the same page."

When it actually comes to contacting contractors, make sure you get in touch with at least three or four, so you can compare prices and what they can do for you. Mackay says it's also good to take a look at work they've done and do a background check by getting in touch with the contractor's references.

"After that, if you're going to hire someone, you need to hire someone you feel comfortable with, because they're going to be in your home for weeks and weeks at a time," she says. "You just have to be extremely careful when you're hiring them. There are a lot of great contractors out there, but there are bad ones out there, and there are also scam artists out there too."

Chris Vanbargen, president of *OntarioContractors.com*, says people are often afraid that in asking for references the contractor may get offended. But if he/she is as good as they say they are, they should be more than happy to offer up references.

"So ask for references and do a background check," Vanbargen says. "Ask them questions like, 'Where are some of your jobs, who do you work for, can I go over there and see some of your work?'"

Before you can find a reputable contractor, you have to decide what you want done, first, says Margaret Mackay, founder of Renocontractors.

Communication is the key on both ends. Once you've decided who to go with, Vanbargen strongly recommends having a contract that has everything that is expected from both parties written in black and white.

In terms of when to start looking for a contractor, the best time is usually in the fall, when projects are wrapping up, or during their slow season around January, February or March.

"All contractors, I think, are slower around that time right after Christmas ... but any contractor that you really want to get, you have to tell them that you'll wait until they're available," he says. "The good ones are usually the ones who are so booked you have to wait a few months or until the following year."

Cutting corners can be dangerous

Some reno work best left to pros

You might think that doing that home renovation project yourself is the way to go: You'll certainly save cash, and after all, it doesn't look that hard, does it?

But there are dangers to cutting corners, says Warren Kuchta, national installation merchant at Home Depot. Your job may be harder than it looks, and if you don't have the time, knowledge or experience needed to properly renovate, you could be costing yourself more money and time in the long run.

"You might think it's all really easy, but if you really want it to look right, you have to had done it a lot before," he says.

Among the most common projects people do themselves — and often poorly — Kuchta says, are floorings, kitchen renovations, plumbing and electricity, particularly dangerous work for those who don't have a firm grasp of what to do. He adds there's also a legal issue: Unless you're in the business, you probably won't know how to draft and submit plans in order to obtain building permits.

> *« It's not only about whether it's easy to do, it's about whether you have the time to do it. »*
> *Warren Kuchta of Home Depot*

Beyond the logistics of DIY, hiring someone in the know frees you up to enjoy your summer, Kuchta says, and not spend it working on a project you won't enjoy in the peak season.

"It's not only about whether or not it's easy to do, it's about whether or not you have the time to do it. What is your time worth? Is it worth hiring somebody who you know is going to do it right no matter what and you're going to be satisfied so you can enjoy it sooner, or are you really going to struggle with it for the next few months?" **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

building permits

If you're adding or altering your home in a major way, chances are you're going to need a building permit — a legal document that grants you permission to begin your project. To obtain one, you'll have to make sure your work complies with local community safety standards and building codes. If you go ahead without one, you could be denied insurance coverage, face higher permit or repair fees, or even be ordered to undo your work.

Now that you're nice and discouraged — here are some home renos you can do that don't require a permit, according to Homebase.ca:

- Replacement of stucco, siding or shingles with the same material used before
- Replacing doors, so long as the opening isn't altered
- Replacing an open landing and/or stairs
- Building fences
- Painting, patching, decorating
- Installing a cabinet or a shelf

Check with your local permits office for details on what you can and cannot do. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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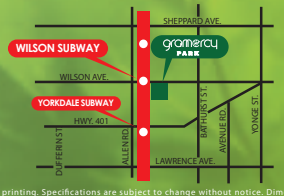

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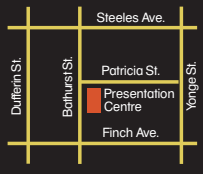

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

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All homes at Evergreen will be built through Monarch Corporation's environmentally-responsible green home building program.

Monarch Corporation and The Toronto Economic Development Corporation (TEDCO) will soon make history at Midland and St. Clair in Toronto, where they have joined forces to offer a residential development that will be one of the largest green communities in the low-rise housing industry. All the homes at Evergreen will be built through Monarch's environmentally-responsible green home building program. Every home will be certified using through the LEED for Homes (LEED-H) rating system, and will meet Ontario's ENERGY STAR® for New Homes qualification requirements.

TEDCO's and Monarch's combined total development area is 24 acres. Sales of the brick freehold three-storey townhomes and 30-foot two-storey single-family homes in Phase 1 will be launched this Saturday. This anticipated release at Evergreen will open the door to the ownership of reasonably priced, environmentally responsible new homes. The community will also serve as a model of the economic viability of green development in Canada.

The LEED for Homes (which stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating system uses ENERGY STAR® as a base line prerequisite for environmentally appropriate construction. In addition, the rating system demands that builders expand their focus to include provisions for environmental issues such as; community location, home owner comfort, increased durability, healthier indoor environmental quality, responsible material management, improved waste management practices, enhanced homeowner awareness and the efficient use of water, electricity and natural gas. With all these measures, Monarch will build houses at Evergreen that will result in reduced demand for valuable energy resources and contribute to a decrease in greenhouse gas emissions.

Phase 1 at Evergreen consists of 82 townhomes and singles of the 202 townhomes and singles the neighbourhood will eventually encompass. Townhomes in the first phase will range in size from 2,065 to 2,224 sq. ft.; singles from 2,202 to 2,409 sq. ft. First occupancies in this green community are slated for spring 2009.

Monarch Corporation is the Canadian division of the world's largest home builder, Taylor Wimpey plc. Monarch has built low-rise homes for 90 years, and high-rise condominiums for 14 years, with a focus in the Greater Toronto Area, Ottawa and Kitchener-Waterloo. As a member of such organizations as BILD, OHBA and CHBA, Monarch is committed to developing a greener lifestyle in its communities.

The Toronto Economic Development Corporation is the principal redevelopment corporation for the City of Toronto and a major landowner across the city. TEDCO's mandate is to work closely with its shareholder and partners to aggressively and creatively pursue business, employment and development opportunities. TEDCO operates as an arm's-length entity from its sole shareholder, the City of Toronto.

Evergreen is the first time TEDCO has partnered in a joint development with a residential builder. Through the course of this partnership, the two organizations will collaborate with the City of Toronto in an effort to refine its Toronto Green Development Standard, and will work to set an example of how government and industry can work together to help address global climate change.

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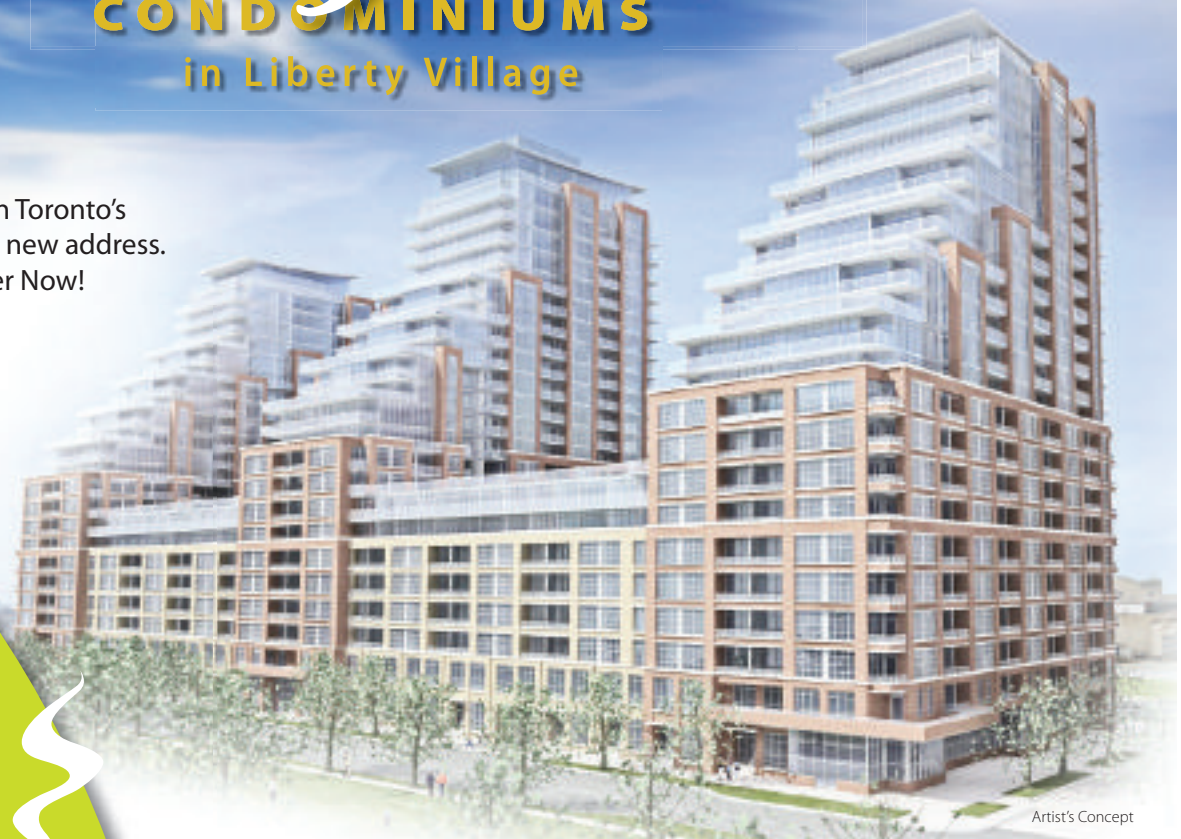

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food

Don't store ice cream on the freezer door. Because of all the opening and closing, the temperature fluctuates much more, meaning the ice cream is prone to melt and re-freeze. NEWS CANADA

Markets short on farmers

MyMarket brand certifies real deal

They're sprouting faster than weeds in a field, but some of the farmers' markets popping up around Toronto are short one thing: Farmers.

"There aren't enough farmers to go around," confirms Bob Chorney, executive director of Farmers Markets Ontario, a provincial association that represents 135 members.

After a $1 million injection from the Greenbelt Foundation, Chorney hired a recruiter in March to help find the growers necessary to make sure Ontarians buy local when they visit one of the association's four new MyMarkets in Toronto.

"He's managed to find about 15 farmers for us," Chorney says. "It's really tough. We set the bar really high."

For years, Chorney has led the charge against what he calls "hucksters" — people who buy imported fruit and veg at the Ontario Food Terminal and pass it off at farmers' markets as local produce.

"These were guys who didn't have a dime invested in a farm," he says.

So he developed the MyMarket brand, which made its debut last year at Liberty Village and the Woodbine Centre, where every vendor was inspected and certified by Farmers Markets Ontario to ensure they grew everything they sold.

Recruiter Bernie Solymar says part of the problem of finding farmers is the strict rules attached to the MyMarket designation.

Other Toronto markets also have had trouble recruiting growers to fill their stalls. At the new Sorauren Park Farmers' Market near Roncesvalles, organizers contacted 60 people to ask if they wanted to set up a table in the park on Mondays, and now have about 20 confirmed for the May 26 opening. Market manager Filip Haderer says more than half will be farmers in order to meet Farmers Markets Ontario requirements for membership, although it doesn't meet MyMarket criteria because it is allowing local businesses such as Baluchon, a fair-trade coffee shop on Sorauren Ave., to set up a table and sell joe.

"We have a broader perspective," he says. "We support farmers and we support processors ... Most of them get their food from farmers."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

new kids on the block

» While farmers' markets are struggling to recruit from an ever-dwindling pool of growers, that has not dampened the enthusiasm of residents' groups and institutions that have stepped up to the plate to help organize markets in the city. The new additions are:

» Bloor-Borden Farmers' Market (MyMarket): Wednesdays, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., east side of Lippincott Street, "Green P" parking lot, opens June 4.

» East Lynn Farm Farmers' Market (MyMarket): Thursdays 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Danforth Avenue, just west of Woodbine, opens June 5.

» Hospital for Sick Children Farmers' Market (MyMarket): Tuesdays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 555 University Ave., opens June 3.

» Sorauren Park Farmers' Market: Mondays, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Sorauren Avenue at Wabash, opens May 26.

» Coming soon: Look for a new market at Eglinton-St. George's United Church, 35 Lytton Blvd.

» For more information on location and hours of GTA markets, go to *farmersmarketsontario.com* and and *foodshare.net/farmersmarkets02.htm*.

Maple Roasted Stone Fruit and Vanilla Ice Cream

Fresh Canadian produce from local farmers and growers just can't be topped. Strawberries in late July; stone fruits like plums and peaches in late August.

INGREDIENTS:

2 each peaches, plums and nectarines
3 tbsp (45 mL) pure maple syrup
1/2 tsp (2 mL) ground cardamom
2 tbsp (25 mL) melted butter
2 rosemary sprigs
1 tbsp (15 mL) freshly squeezed orange juice
2 cups (500 mL) Nestlé Real Dairy French Vanilla Ice Cream (50% Less Fat French Vanilla can be substituted)

METHOD:

Preheat oven to 400ºF (200ºC).
Cut fruit into quarters and remove pits.
Place fruit in bowl and drizzle with maple syrup and butter. Sprinkle with cardamom and rosemary, tossing gently until fruit is coated.
Arrange fruit in a single layer on a parchment-lined baking sheet; pour extra syrup mixture over fruit. Bake in centre of oven, turning gently, until fruit is fork tender and golden (about 10-15 minutes).
Spoon fruit mixture over ice cream. Makes 4-6 servings.

COURTESY OF NEWS CANADA

metro TOP 5IVE

Foods to impress your girlfriend:

1. Cheesecake, garnished with a chick-flick
2. A crisp white wine with raspberries in her glass
3. Breakfast in bed
4. Pan-seared salmon marinated in white wine and herb sauce (available at the deli in your grocery store)
5. Berry pie (fresh berries and a little blueberry pie filler in a graham cracker shell, top with real whipped cream).

— Douglas Dunlop /Metro Toronto

Jillian just loves a big bird

Meteorologist's a fan of her dad's holiday cooking

Jillian Barberie Reynolds is the FOX Network News meteorologist and an actress. Jillian is a native of Burlington, Ont. Jillian appeared as the character Foxey Levin, opposite Pamela Anderson, in the TV series VIP. Jillian put her passion for figure skating to good use on the reality show Skating with Celebrities.

Reynolds

Q What is your fondest memory from your family kitchen?

A My Dad (Big Jim's) holiday cooking. Big bird, mashed potatoes — the whole nine yards!

Q What kitchen aromas bring back fond memories?

A The delicious aroma of turkey and potatoes.

Q Who is your favourite cook?

A Giada De Laurentiis (host of Food Network's Everyday Italian) is second to my husband!

Q What is your favourite food to cook?

A I'm new to the cooking game. I watch the Food Network and copy its recipes.

Q Do you use cookbooks?

A Yes. The chefs that come on our show give out cookbooks as gifts. I really like Gordon Ramsay 3 Star Chef.

Q How did the first meal you prepared turn out?

A Yuk! But I'm a good student.

CELEB KITCHENS

MARCY CORNBLUM
entertainment@metronews.ca

Q What kitchen gadget can you not live without?

A My husband when he cooks.

Q What traditions from your background involving food do you partake in?

A I'm a great eater, always have been. No traditions, I'm just a good eater.

Q Is there a cultural dish that you prepare that ties into a holiday?

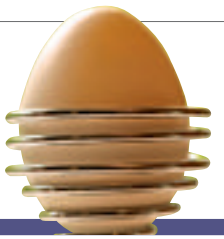
A I always make a big dinner on Canada Day.

Marcy Cornblum is a freelance journalist. After 25 years of celebrity-filled adventures, she is using her experiences to enlighten others in understanding the media. Reach her at *mediasavvy@pathcom.com*.

billy's best bottles

» Billy's Best Bottles swears that Sauvignon Blanc has the same DNA as asparagus — a perfect pairing. Check out *metronews.ca* for this week's column.

A diet rich in the omega-3 fatty acid DHA (found in omega-3 enriched eggs, seafood and fish) has been found to significantly reduce the risk of dementia and Alzheimer's disease. CBC NEWS ONLINE



Tortilla Española (Spanish potato omelette)

A timeless classic, the Spanish potato omelette can be cut into wedges for brunch or small squares for an appetizer and served with spicy salsa.
This recipe is adapted from the Culinary Institute of America's Spain and the World Table.

INGREDIENTS:
8 Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and sliced 1/8-inch thick (about 2 lbs/900 g)
1-3/4 tsp salt, divided
1/2 cup + 2 tbsp olive oil, divided
1 cup chopped yellow onions
1/3 cup chopped red bell peppers
1/3 cup chopped green bell peppers
1-1/2 cups prosciutto, diced (125 g package)
10 large eggs

METHOD:
Toss potatoes with 1 teaspoon salt in large bowl.
Heat 1/2 cup olive oil in large, non-stick frying pan over medium heat. Add potatoes. Cook, stirring occasionally, until potatoes soften but don't brown, about 5 minutes.
Add onions, peppers and prosciutto. Cook 10 minutes until potatoes are tender and ingredients well blended. Transfer to colander placed over bowl and drain off liquid. Clean pan.
In large bowl, beat eggs. Stir in potato mixture and add 3/4 teaspoon salt.
Return pan to medium heat. Add 2 tablespoons olive oil; pour in egg mixture when oil is very hot. Tilt pan so eggs evenly cover bottom. Reduce heat to low. Cook, shaking pan once or twice, until omelette has set, about 10 minutes.
Cover pan with large plate. Invert so omelette is cooked side up on plate. Slide back into pan and cook other side until lightly browned, about 5 minutes.
Slide omelette onto plate. Cool to room temperature before slicing. Makes about 8 servings.

COURTESY OF TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Coffee may sway your blood sugar

As you gulp your cup of java and then chow down on some breakfast cereal, you may wish to consider new research looking at the possible effects when these two morning favourites are combined.

Drinking caffeinated coffee an hour before eating a bowl of cereal can significantly affect the body's blood-sugar response, according to the small study conducted at the University of Guelph in Ontario.

Terry Graham, chair of the department of human health and nutritional sciences, says this is of no consequence to healthy individuals. In fact, he notes that epidemiological studies have shown quite conclusively that prolonged decades of heavy coffee drinking decrease the risk for Type 2 diabetes.

But, he said, the study's findings might have implications for those who are diabetic or at risk of diabetes.

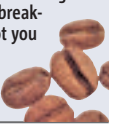
"If you were a Type 2 diabetic or thought you were at risk, why wouldn't you drink decaf? Because then you've got all the benefits of the coffee, and not the negative of caffeine," Graham said.

The research paper, published online last week by the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, calls for more research in the area. There were only a small number of participants and they were all healthy men.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

lunch

» As for drinking coffee at the same time as consuming cereal — rather than an hour earlier — Graham noted that other research finds only a modest impact on blood-sugar response. But there was a "marked impact" when a carbohydrate-based lunch was eaten later, he said. "The insulin levels went quite high ... You dodge the bullet at breakfast, but it got you between the eyes at lunch."



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From football to food hero

CFL's Dunigan nabs TV host gig

Football fans are familiar with Matt Dunigan, the star quarterback. Soon foodies will meet Matt Dunigan, the celebrity chef.

The former Canadian Football League standout is the host of Road Grill, a new series devoted to barbecuing on the Food Network.

Dunigan has been retired from football for more than a decade but has stayed involved in the game, working as an analyst for TSN and doing a stint as coach and general manager of the Calgary Stampeders. But Dunigan's latest endeavour is allowing him to get out of that football comfort zone.

"I think it's important to step outside of the box and try to enjoy life and try new things," Dunigan said in a recent telephone interview.

The show is produced by Knight Enterprises, an Ottawa-based production company best known for its food programs.

Dunigan, 47, grew up in Texas and went to college in Louisiana, so he knows a thing or two about barbecue, but he's not a seasoned cook. And while he may be a member of the Canadian Football Hall of Fame, he had to audition for this job, just like anyone else.

It all started when Dunigan's wife Kathy heard about a national casting call for a new cooking show devoted to grilling and convinced her husband that he should send in an audition tape. The tape caught the eye of Chris Knight, president of Knight Enterprises. Dunigan made the shortlist of four or five and was asked to do a proper audition. Impressed by his presence on camera and passion for grilling, Knight gave Dunigan the job.

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RON ALBERTSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Matt Dunigan hosts Road Grill on the Food Network.

Knight admits that Dunigan's celebrity status in Canada will likely help draw Canadian viewers. But given that Knight's shows are picked up around the world, it wasn't a deciding factor in Dunigan being cast in the role.

"That Matt was a celebrity and a (football) legend was a bonus," said Knight. "What got him the gig was his personality. And he grew up knowing barbecue." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Honey Mustard Chicken Drumsticks

Here is a recipe featuring chicken drumsticks from the cookbook Road Grill (McArthur and Company), the companion to the Food Network show of the same name. The dish is simple, so it's perfect for a making on weekdays when you're pressed for time. Former CFL quarterback Matt Dunigan, who host the show, says you can adjust the ingredients as desired — "I like way more garlic than we call for here," he says.

INGREDIENTS:

12 fresh chicken drumsticks, skin on, rinsed and patted dry
Oil, for brushing
125 ml (1/2 cup) liquid honey
50 ml (1/4 cup) Dijon mustard
5 ml (1 tsp) mustard seeds
10 ml (2 tsp) chopped garlic
Juice and zest of 1 lemon
30 ml (2 tbsp) olive oil
Salt and pepper, to taste

METHOD:

Marinade: In a medium bowl, whisk together marinade ingredients. Reserve 50 ml (1/4 cup) for basting later.
In a large sealable plastic bag, place chicken. Pour marinade over chicken and seal bag. Swoosh bag so all legs are coated with marinade. Place in refrigerator and marinate for 4 hours.
Prepare barbecue for indirect medium heat: 180 C (350 F) leaving 2 burners on and 2 burners off. Oil grill on the off side. Place chicken on grill over the burners that are off. Turn every 3 to 4 minutes, brushing with reserved marinade, for 15 to 20 minutes or until chicken skin is golden brown and chicken is cooked through or when juices run clear when drumstick is poked in the thickest part.
Remove from grill and let rest for 5 minutes before serving. Makes 12 drumsticks.

COURTESY OF THE CANADIAN PRESS

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entertainment

Actress Gwyneth Paltrow, left, has revealed she is the new face of luxury brand Tod's. PEOPLE.COM

sweden

Floyd, Fleming win Polar Music Prize

Fleming

AWARDS Pink Floyd and soprano Renee Fleming were named winners of the 2008 Polar Music Prize yesterday for their contributions to their musical genres, The Associated Press reports.

The British rock group and Fleming will each receive a cash prize of $165,500 at an Aug. 26 awards ceremony in Stockholm, organizers said.

The Polar Music Prize is Sweden's biggest music award.

It was founded by Stig Anderson, manager of Swedish pop group ABBA, in 1989.

music videos

Hedley up for 6 MuchMusic awards

Feist

PRIZE Canadian rockers Hedley have been nominated for six MuchMusic Video Awards, organizers announced yesterday.

Following closely are Belly and illScarlett with five nods each. The 2008 MuchMusic Video Awards are set to air live on the cable station June 15. Other Canadian acts City And Colour, Feist, Sam Roberts, and Simple Plan also received multiple nominations.

International acts up for awards include Fall Out Boy, Kanye West, Rihanna and Timbaland Presents OneRepublic. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Art of action

Even thoroughly planned stunts can go wrong

By CHRIS ATCHISON
Metro Toronto

Death-defying crashes, carefully planned tumbles from towering heights, elaborate explosions — they are the lifeblood of the summer movie season and most of the time these stunts and action sequences come off without a hitch.

There are the rare occasions, however, when film shoots make the news for all the wrong reasons — when things go horribly awry and people get injured.

Just last month James Bond's preferred mode of transportation, the venerable Aston Martin DBS — this one en route to the set of the latest 007 flick Quantum Of Solace — swerved off a slick northern Italian road and into Lake Garda.

The driver wound up in hospital, but later recovered. The same could not be said for the six-figure sports car.

Other accidents have proven far more lethal.

In 2007, cinematographer Roland Schlotzhauer was killed shooting aerial sequences for the film The Final Season when his helicopter struck power lines and crashed.

The life of promising action star Brandon Lee, son of legendary martial arts expert Bruce Lee, came to a tragic end in 1993 when a stunt involving a gun loaded with dummy cartridges ended in his fatal shooting.

A decade earlier, a pyrotechnic malfunction on the set of the 1983 film The Twilight Zone: The Movie resulted in a helicopter crash, killing actor Vic Morrow and two child actors.

While accidents such as these are few and far between, stunt co-ordinators such as Anthony De Longis, who trained actor Harrison Ford in his trademark palm-down bullwhip cracking technique for the new film Indiana Jones And The Kingdom Of The Crystal Skull, take every precaution to ensure safety while on set.

"As far as the whip goes, I have a very specific protocol," De Longis says of his dealings with the potentially lethal tool.

"As far as being surrounded by a crew, they are made very aware that this is the path of the whip. We will arrange the action so that nothing is going to get hit by accident … but it just seems so effortless and smooth (people) think, you won't hit them. No, I won't if I know you're there, but don't come sneaking up behind me because I'm focused on keeping the people in front of me safe."

Graham Kelly, veteran stuntman and action vehicle co-ordinator on the film National Treasure 2, echoes De Longis' sentiment that seemingly innocuous action scenes and props can pose a danger when used carelessly or without ample preparation.

While both film veterans boast relatively accident-free careers, they stress that awareness and safety protocols are the key to maintaining those records.

WITH FILES FROM RICK MCGINNIS

PARAMOUNT PICTURES/LUCASFILM

Stunt co-ordinator Anthony De Longis, who trained Harrison Ford to use the bullwhip in Indian Jones And The Kingdon Of The Crystal Skull, says every precaution is taken to ensure safety on set.

Cook rocks his way to American Idol crown

By SANDY CAETANO
Metro Toronto

David Cook, the rocker and former bartender from Blue Springs, Mo., was crowned this season's champion during last night's star-studded two-hour finale of American Idol.

It was a surprise the all-American boy next door, David Archuleta 17, wasn't the one to win since all the girls seemed to have gone crazy for him. But he lost to his fellow competitor by a difference of 12 million votes. It was the highest number of votes ever in American Idol history, after 97.5 million votes were cast for the final two, smashing the record by more than 23 million.

Last night's finale featured the return of the Top 12, including Cook and Archuleta, who opened the show with a group number followed by another performance of Chad Kroeger's Hero by the final two.

Promoting the film The Love Guru, coming out June 20, and offering advice to Cook and Archuleta was Guru Pitka, also known as Emmy Award-winning Canadian actor, comedian, screenwriter and film producer Mike Myers.

Cook

Archuleta

Among last night's celebrity performers were Seal, Donna Summer, who sang her new single Stamp Your Feet, Canadian singer/songwriter Bryan Adams, ZZ Top, Graham Nash, The Jonas Brothers and One Republic. George Michael even made an appearance coinciding with his first tour in 17 years starting in San Diego June 17.

And to add a few laughs was Renaldo Lapuz, who tried out for the competition earlier on in the season, to perform the song he wrote for judge Simon Cowell called We Are Brothers Forever.

Jordin Sparks, last season's American Idol winner, and Carrie Underwood also made appearances.

"For the first time ever I don't really care who wins," said Cowell, commenting on how great both the final competitors are.

"I started this season … as the word nerd, and I'm very much at a loss for words," said Cook after the results were read, before singing his new single Time Of My Life.

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"★★★★" - The Toronto Star
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Actor Craig Horner, left, and Bridget Regan will star in Spider-Man director Sam Raimi's upcoming syndicated TV series Wizard's First Rule, which launches this fall. EW.COM

Sony brings out the big games

By JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN
Metro Toronto

If variety is the spice of life then PlayStation 3 and PSP owners are in for one mouth-watering year. Sony Computer Entertainment America (SCEA) gave a sneak peak at its 2008 (and early '09) lineup to select media members late last week in Hollywood and the key message the video game giants were delivering was diversity. From social games like the quiz title Buzz! to premier shoot 'em up games like Resistance 2, Killzone 2 and SOCOM: Confrontation to sporty titles like Motorstorm: Pacific Rift and Hot Shots Golf: Open Tee 2 and the indescribable, yet adorable, LittleBigPlanet, SCEA looks to have something to satisfy every type of gamer.

Resistance 2

"It's important to have a wide variety of titles in the library because then you can appeal to everybody," said Matt Levitan, marketing and PR manager for Sony Computer Entertainment Canada. "We're always going to have incredible shooters like Resistance and Killzone, but then you bring out a title like LittleBigPlanet that is so different than anything that we have and you can really classify the PS3 as a machine that is only for the hardcore."

Here's a quick rundown of some of what will be hitting store shelves for the PS3 later this year:

» RESISTANCE 2 – PS3 (FALL 2008)

The sequel to the bestselling PS3 launch title promises more alien-blasting action with features like an eight-player online co-op mode and 60-player online multi-player games.

» LITTLEBIGPLANET – PS3 (OCTOBER 2008)

Try your hand at a new genre called "creative gaming" as you play, build and share inside a 3D landscape filled with sock puppet-esque characters.

» BUZZ! QUIZ TV – PS3 (FALL 2008)

The popular quiz show franchise, makes its way for the first time to PS3 with over 5,000 music, movies & TV, sports, general knowledge and lifestyle questions, plus online quiz sharing.

» MOTORSTORM: PACIFIC RIFT – PS3 (FALL 2008)

The most brutal racing game around is back with new tracks, monster trucks and improved split-screen multi-player action.

» KILLZONE 2 – PS3 (FEBRUARY 2009)

The most highly anticipated PS3 shooter offers stunning visuals and an intense storyline that promises to blow gamers away.

» SOCOM: US NAVY SEALS CONFRONTATION – PS3 (SEPT. 16, 2008)

Get the intense feel of military action in huge multi-player maps with up to 32 gamers online.

more online

» For exclusive interviews with Sony game developers, plus a full list of new game releases for PS3, PSP and the PlayStation Network, please visit *metronews.ca*

CINEPLEX
EMPIRE THEATRES
AMC
ALLIANCE ATLANTIS
RAINBOW CINEMAS
INDEPENDENT

SCOTIABANK THEATRE
259 Richmond St., 416-368-5600
No Passes Thu 12:40-1:10-1:40-3:40-4:10-4:40-7-7:30-8-10:10-10:40-11:10 No Passes Thu 12:10-3:10-6:30-9:40

MARKET SQUARE
80 Front St., 416-494-9371
THU 1:20-3:35-4-6:40-7:10-9:15-9:45

VARSITY
Manulife Centre 55 Bloor St. W., 2nd floor, 416-961-6304
NO PASSES THU 12:20-12:45-3:30-3:50-6:40-7-9:50-10:10 NO PASSES THU 1:05-4:05-7:05-9:55

SILVERCITY YONGE & EGLINTON CENTRE
2300 Yonge St., 416-544-1236
NO PASSES THU 12:50-1:20-4-4:30-7:15-7:40-10:20-10:40 NO PASSES THU 12:20-3:30-6:40-9:50

QUEENSWAY
1025 The Queensway, 416-503-0424
NO PASSES THU 12:10-12:40-1:40-3:10-3:40-4:40-6:30-7-8-9:40-10:10

WOODBINE CENTRE
500 Rexdale Blvd., 416-213-1998
THU 12:40-1:05-3:40-4:05-6:40-6:55-9:20-9:35

EAST END

BEACH CINEMAS
1651 Queen St. E., 416-699-5971
NO PASSES THU 12:20-1:10-3:30-4:10-6:30-7:20-9:50-10:20

EMPRESS WALK
5095 Yonge St., 416-223-9550
DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL, STADIUM SEATING WED 12:01 DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL, STADIUM SEATING THU 3:30-4-4:30-5-6:45-7-7:30-8:15-9:50-10-10:30

SILVERCITY YORKDALE 6
3401 Dufferin St., 416-444-3456
NO PASSES THU 12:10-12:40-1:10-3:10-3:40-4:10-6:30-7-7:30-9:40-10:10-10:30

SCARBOROUGH

COLISEUM SCARBOROUGH
300 Borough Dr., 416-290-5217
NO PASSES THU 12-1:10-1:30-3:10-4:10-4:30-6:20-7:10-7:40-9:40-10:20-10:40 NO PASSES THU 12:20-3:40-6:50-10

EGLINTON TOWN CENTRE
1901 Eglinton Ave. E., 416-752-4494
NO PASSES THU 12:10-12:40-1:10-1:40-3:10-3:40-4:10-4:40-6:30-7-7:30-8-9:40-10:10-10:40

401 & MORNINGSIDE
785 Milner Ave., 416-281-2226
NO PASSES THU 2:50-3:40-5-6-6:50-8:30-9:15-10

PEEL REGION

COLISEUM 10
309 Rathburn Rd., 905-275-3456
NO PASSES THU 12:40-3:40-7-10:10 NO PASSES, SNEAK PREVIEW THU 12:10-1:10-1:40-3:10-4:10-4:40-6:30-7:30-8-9:40-10:40

COURTNEY PARK 16
110 Courtney Park Dr., 905-362-1210
SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT WED 12:01 SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT THU 11:15-12:15-1-1:45-2:30-3:15-4:45-5:30-6:15-7:45-8:30-9:15-10-10:45

ORION GATE GRANDE
20 Biscayne Cr., 905-455-1590
NO PASSES THU 12:10-12:50-1:30-3:30-4-4:30-6:40-7:05-7:30-9:40-10:05-10:30

NORTH

5 DRIVE-IN
2331 Ninth Line, 905-257-8272
THU 9

AURORA CINEMAS
15460 Bayview Ave., 905-841-1789
NO PASSES THU 12:10-12:40-1:10-3:10-3:40-4:10-6:30-7-7:30-9:40-10:10-10:40

COLOSSUS 19
3555 Hwy 7 West, 905-851-1001
NO PASSES THU 12:10-12:40-1:10-1:40-3:10-3:40-4:10-4:40-6:30-7-7:30-8-9:40-10:10-10:40

ELGIN MILLS 10 CINE-...
10909 Yonge St., 905-770-6998
NO PASSES WED 12:01 NO PASSES THU 7:15-7:30-10:15-10:30

FIRST MARKHAM PLACE
3275 Hwy 7 E., 905-474-5101
NO PASSES THU 12:20-1:10-3:30-4:10-6:40-7:20-9:40-10:30

PROMENADE MALL
1 Promenade Circle, 416-494-9371
THU 12:40-1-3:40-4-6:40-7-9:15-9:30

SILVERCITY NEWMARKET
18151 Yonge St., 905-953-2792
NO PASSES THU 12:40-1:10-3:40-4:10-6:30-7-7:30-9:40-10:10-10:40 NO PASSES THU 12:10-3:10

SILVERCITY RICHMOND HILL
8771 Yonge St., 905-709-3199
NO PASSES THU 12:10-12:40-1:10-3:10-3:40-4:10-6:30-7-7:30-9:40-10:10-10:40 NO PASSES THU 1:40-4:40-8

HALTON

SILVERCITY BURLINGTON 8
1250 Brant St., 416-646-0444
NO PASSES THU 7:15-7:45-10:15-10:40 NO PASSES THU 6:45-9:45

SILVERCITY BRAMPTON
50 Great Lakes, 905-789-6797
NO PASSES THU 12:40-1:10-1:40-3:40-4:10-4:40-7-7:30-8-10:10-10:40 NO PASSES THU 12:10-3:10-6:30-9:40

WINSTON CHURCHILL
2081 Winston Park Dr. Oakville, 905-829-2009
THU 12:15-1-1:45-2:30-3:15-4-4:45-5:30-6:15-7-7:45-8:30-9:15-10:45

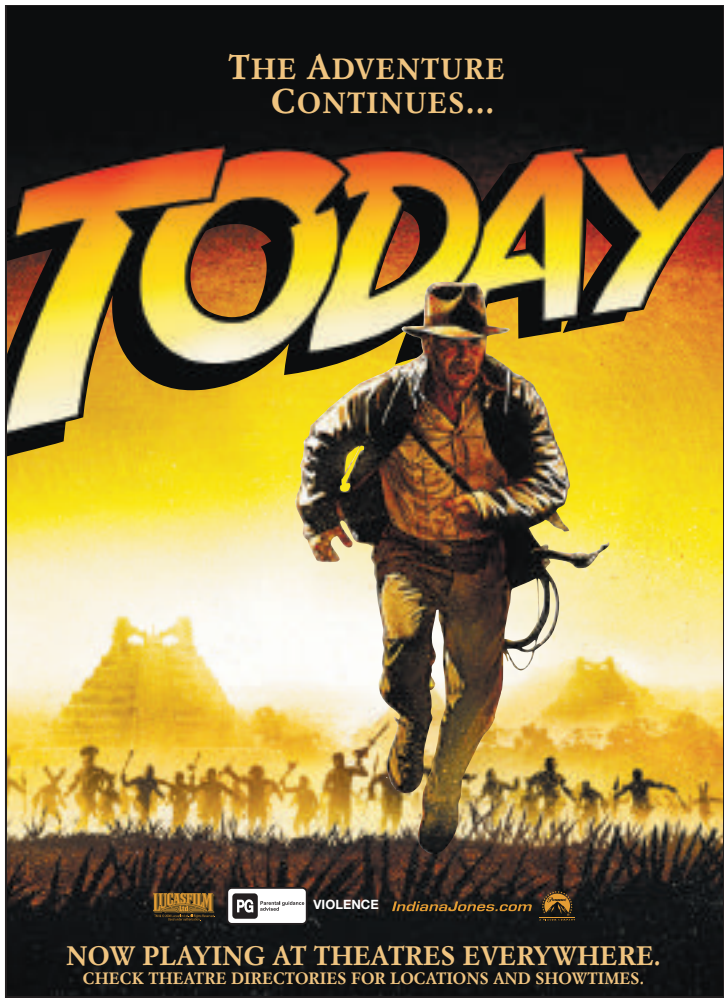
DURHAM

AJAX
248 Kingston Rd. E, Hwy 2, 905-426-7772
NO PASSES THU 6:50-7:15-10-10:10

PICKERING 8
1355 Kingston Rd., 416-646-0444
NO PASSES THU 5-6-8-9

WHITBY 24
75 Consumers Dr., 905-665-7210
THU 12:15-1-1:45-2:30-3:15-4-4:45-5:30-6:15-7-7:45-8:30-9:15-10-10:45

Indiana Jones is rated (PG)
Times are subject to change.



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LOTTO SUPER 7

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Draw Date: _____

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2	QUICK PICK				
3	QUICK PICK				
4	QUICK PICK				
5	QUICK PICK				
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12	QUICK PICK				
13	QUICK PICK				
14	QUICK PICK				
15	QUICK PICK				

Revised 01/05/2004

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Lottery Group Play Form Disclaimer

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Filmmaker Spike Lee, left, has announced he is directing a feature-length documentary about basketball superstar Michael Jordan, which he hopes to bring to next year's Cannes Film Festival. EW.COM

cause

Ford waxes chest to make point

PEOPLE Harrison Ford pulled a Steve Carell for a public service announcement: He gets his chest waxed.

The actor winces in apparent pain as a strip of hair is yanked from his chest in the announcement for Conservation International to raise awareness about the effect of deforestation on global warming. Ford sits on the board of directors of the Washington-based environmental organization.

The scene from The 40-Year-Old Virgin — in which Carell screams during his chest hair removal — was intentionally hilarious. Ford's message, however, is serious: "Every bit of rain forest that gets ripped out over there, really hurts us over here." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Twists deliver fun Jones ride

Indiana Jones And The Kingdom Of The Crystal Skull

Stars Harrison Ford, Shia LaBeouf
Director Steven Spielberg

PG

By CHRIS ATCHISON
Metro Toronto

REVIEW FILM FANS young and old will be hard-pressed to miss the smile creeping across their face when they hear John Williams' famed score and see that trademark fedora make its first big-screen appearance in 19 years, in a much-anticipated re-introduction to the greatest adventure character of all time.

It's a welcome reunion and from its opening scenes, it's clear that Indiana Jones And The Kingdom Of The Crystal Skull is equal parts homage to the beloved series and progression of the archaeologist's perennially exciting story.

In this instalment, an evil corps of Russians is hunting down the mysterious and powerful crystal skull, an ancient Mayan relic said to pre-date the Egyptian pyramids.

Jones (Harrison Ford), accompanied by a misfit named Mutt Williams (an impressive performance by Transformers' Shia LaBeouf), sets out on a journey to find the skull and figure out the secrets behind its alleged powers before the Soviets net the treasure and possibly gain an upper hand in the raging Cold War.

Along the way Jones reunites with Marion Ravenwood (Raiders Of The Lost Ark's Karen Allen) and joins forces with a host of characters including his treasure-hunting partner Mac (Ray Winstone).

And that's about all that can be said about the plot of the new Indiana Jones flick without giving away key details — but it should be noted this story line has more twists than Indy's whip, making for a fun ride from start to finish.

Director Steven Spielberg and writer-producer George Lucas have indeed brought Dr. Jones back in style.

The action sequences come fast and furious and Indy is still up to the task — at 65, Ford still makes a believable, appropriately weathered, swashbuckler — while screenwriter David Koepp (War Of The Worlds) adds ample references to the passing of time since we last saw our hero ride off into the sunset at the finale of Indiana Jones And The Last Crusade.

That's a key reason why this series has worked so well and still resonates with audiences. Indiana Jones is a vulnerable hero. He ages and shows it, he makes mistakes and has his vulnerabilities — namely a fear of snakes, his love for Marion and a desire for altruism over greed.

While the dialogue plods at times and a few scenes are more than a little far-fetched (but then again, which of the Indiana Jones films don't have their fair share of outrageous story elements?), The Kingdom Of The Crystal Skull is pure summertime blockbuster joy.

Hopefully Indy has a few more artifacts to recover because his return is all the proof we need that, even after nearly two decades on hiatus and a few more grey hairs, he's still worth the price of admission.

BACK STORY

- **M. Night Shyamalan and Tom Stoppard were each asked to pen a draft of the screenplay for Indiana Jones And The Kingdom Of The Crystal Skull.** IMDB.COM

Young, Urban, Active

metro

MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL

DO YOU HAVE TYPE 2 DIABETES?

You may be eligible to participate in a research study being done at Mount Sinai Hospital. This study is testing a new medication that may help your body make insulin and improve your blood sugar control.

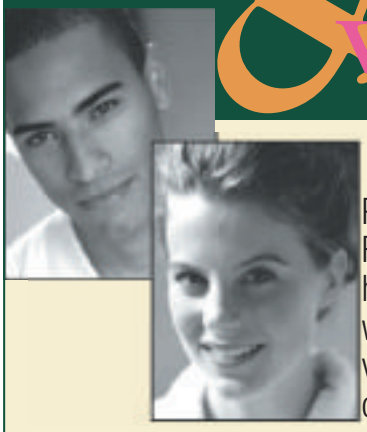
We are looking for participants with Type 2 Diabetes between the ages of 30 and 75, taking either no diabetes medication (pills) OR taking 1 or 2 diabetes medications, who are not taking insulin and are willing to come for 9 study visits over 14 months.

If you are interested in participating or have questions about the study, please call 416-586-8778. The principal investigators are Dr. Bernard Zinman and Dr. Ravi Retnakaran. www.mtsinai.on.ca

Get. To. The. Point.

metro

men & women



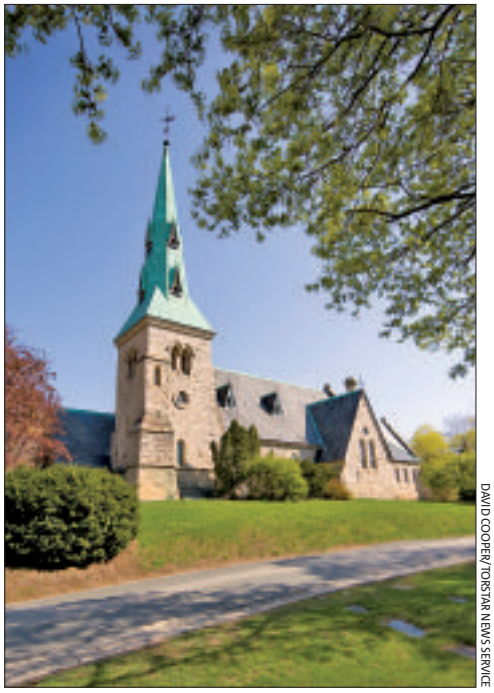
PHARMA MEDICA RESEARCH INC. requires healthy Males & Females who are Drug-free to volunteer to participate in clinical research studies.

If you are 18 to 65 years old, and want to see if you qualify, please contact the clinic (Mon to Fri. 8am - 8pm, Sat 9am - 5pm) at 416 -759-5554 or visit our website at www.pharmamedica.com

You will be financially compensated upon completion of the study

PHARMA MEDICA RESEARCH INC.

Actress Scarlett Johansson, right, has denied she snubbed the premiere of Woody Allen's latest movie Vicky Cristina Barcelona because movie bosses refused to cater to her diva demands. She was absent because of unavoidable "scheduling conflicts," her rep said. IMDB.COM



DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Chapel of St. James-the-Less will be open to visitors during Doors Open Toronto.

City opens its doors

This year, Doors Open Toronto will be showcasing up to 150 venues of architectural, historic, cultural or social significance on Saturday and Sunday.

Among the 42 new sites on this year's roster are many of the city's finest churches, chapels, temples, synagogues and mosques. From architectural landmarks to hidden gems, doors will be open everywhere.

Review the listings, check hours and days of participation. The event officially runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. However, each building determines its own hours (and last admission times).

Look for a Doors Open Toronto banner at participating sites.

There are no tickets or pre-registration required. Admission is free. Program subject to change. And search the listings at *toronto.ca/doorsopen*. Here are but a few:

401 RICHMOND

401 Richmond St. W.; Sat. & Sun.: 10 to 5

Home to more than 140 cultural producers and micro enterprises. Tours at 1 p.m. include window restoration demonstrations. Visit organic roof garden. Eleven on-site art galleries open Sat. only.

ALLAN GARDENS

19 Horticultural Ave.; Sat. & Sun.: 10 to 5

Tours of park and greenhouses, hands on environmental stewardship programs for families and story telling for children.

ALUMNAE THEATRE

70 Berkeley St.; Sat.: 10 to 5 Sun.: 1 to 5

Formerly Toronto's #4 Fire Station, converted into a theatre in 1971-72. Self guided tour; archives and costume display.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

528 Bathurst St.; Sat.: 10 to 5 Sun.: not open

Rare artifacts on display. Aboriginal leaders discuss significance of archaeologists working with First Nations traditionalists. City's archaeological Master Plan on display.

BAPS SHRI SWAMINARAYAN MANDIR: MARBLE TEMPLE

61 Claireville Dr. (Finch Ave. W. and Highway 427); Sat: 10 to 5 Sun: 10 to 2

See breathtaking architecture created from 24,000 pieces of hand-carved stone and marble by 1,800 craftsmen and volunteers. Tours.

CHAPEL OF ST. JAMES-THE-LESS/ ST. JAMES' CEMETERY AND CREMATORIUM

635 Parliament St.; Sat. & Sun.: 1 to 4

This small funeral chapel is a splendid example of High Victorian Gothic design. Tour chapel and Toronto's oldest established cemetery.

DESIGN EXCHANGE (FORMER TORONTO STOCK EXCHANGE)

234 Bay St.; Sat: not open Sun: 10 to 5

Tour the ground floor, grand staircase and restored trading floor with spectacular murals by Charles Comfort. Exhibition on iconic 1960s Clairtone stereos.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TTC DOORS OPEN
SATURDAY, MAY 24 - NOON TO 5PM

The TTC will once again be opening its doors to the public to two special locations during the 9th Annual Doors Open Toronto event on Saturday, May 24, between the hours of noon and 5 p.m.

BAY LOWER

Stroll down the subway platform at Bay Lower Station, the station under the station. The scene of countless movies and commercials. Get off at Bay Station on the Bloor-Danforth line.

HARVEY SHOPS

Or take the Bathurst Bus to the TTC's Hillcrest complex at 1138 Bathurst Street and take a tour through the Harvey Shops, one of the TTC's major maintenance garages where highly skilled employees maintain and repair the TTC's fleet of buses and streetcars and home of one of the City's last blacksmith shops. Hot dogs and water will be available for purchase at Harvey Shops with proceeds going to the United Way.

www.ttc.ca 416-393-INFO

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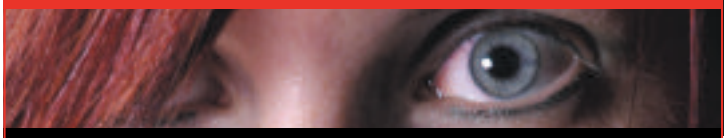
Does it cause you to have red, watery and itchy eyes?



Allied Research International is seeking people with seasonal, dust mite or animal dander allergies to test an investigational eye drop medication in a research study.

You may qualify to participate if you:
• Are between 18-65 years of age • Are allergic to either ragweed, dust mites or animal dander
• Have symptoms of red, itchy eyes due to above allergies
• Can attend 4 visits to our facility over a period of 3 weeks

Qualifying participants will be compensated up to $900 upon study completion.

Call: 905-629-5777 or Toll Free: 1-888-ARI-5544
Regular hours of operation: Monday to Friday 9 am to 8 pm & Saturday 9 am to 5 pm

AlliedResearch INTERNATIONAL
A Company of Cetero Research

4520 Dixie Rd in Mississauga www.allied-research.com

ARI is a contract research organization dedicated to the advancement of clinical research. We conduct research for both healthy volunteers and those with medical conditions in a safe and friendly environment.

Do you suffer from psoriasis?

Allied Research International is seeking people with psoriasis to participate in a clinical research study testing an investigational medication for the treatment of psoriasis.

You may qualify to participate if you:

• Are between 18-60 years of age
• Have at least mild to moderate psoriasis

Qualifying participants will be compensated up to $3,780 upon study completion.

For more information, call:
Sufyan Zafar, MD at 905-238-0599 ext. 2229
4520 Dixie Rd, Mississauga www.allied-research.com

AlliedResearch INTERNATIONAL
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ARI is a contract research organization dedicated to the advancement of clinical research. We conduct research for both healthy volunteers and those with medical conditions in a safe and friendly environment.

Young, Urban, Active

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CTV PHOTO

A contestant shows off his moves for the So You Think You Can Dance judges in Washington, D.C. Season 4 of the show premieres tonight.

Fame no longer so unattainable

ON TV
SANDY CAETANO
sandy.caetano@metronews.ca

On the heels of last night's finale of American Idol, is the beginning of the fourth season of Fox's So You Think You Can Dance, making its two-hour premiere tonight.

And that means viewers going back to their phones to vote for who they want to come out this season's winner.

So what exactly is it about these reality shows that have thousands upon thousands of people lining up to audition?

Whether it's American Idol or Canadian Idol, or So You Think You Can Dance — it's all about getting five minutes of fame. Today's younger generation is so obsessed with Hollywood and its stars, they want to be a part of that any way they can.

In a survey taken from FAME JUNKIES by author and reporter Jake Halpern (Houghton Mifflin, Jan 2007), he found that most teenagers would prefer to be a celebrity than be smart.

Of the 650 teenagers who took part in the survey, 43.4 per cent said they would want to be a personal assistant to a very famous singer or movie star than being a president of a university like Harvard or even a United States senator.

"In the future everyone will be world-famous for 15 minutes," said Andy Warhol in 1968, and he was right. Just take a look around you — just about anyone can achieve it.

Even the viewers voting for the winners of these reality shows aren't professionals, most probably have no expertise in the singing or dancing fields.

The whole obsession with being famous is getting out of hand, so much so that people are blogging, getting themselves on Youtube and creating their own My Space pages.

Take Perez Hilton. Who is this guy? He became famous because of his celebrity blog site that covers celebrity gossip. Now he's known as a famous blogger and personality.

We certainly can't forget about the hotel heiress herself, Paris Hilton, and her rise to fame. So her family owns a chain of hotels — still, there's no reason for Hilton to be one of the most sought-out stars by the paparazzi.

That was until the release of her sex tape — that was what threw her into the eyes of the media. Hilton has dabbled in reality TV, acting, singing and modelling, and has her own clothing line and her own fragrance.

Catch So You Think You Can Dance on CTV or on Fox.

Sandy Caetano covers reality shows and has interviewed stars like Leanne Rimes, Lionel Richie, Paul Anka, Good Charlotte and more.

Snipes seeks bail as he appeals

Wesley Snipes must surrender to prison authorities June 3 if he isn't granted bail to appeal three federal U.S. tax convictions, defence lawyers said in a court filing.

Snipes' lawyers plan to argue before the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that the trial judge erred in several ways before and after his February conviction in Ocala, Fla. U.S. District Judge William Terrell Hodges last month sentenced Snipes to three years in prison.

To be granted freedom during the appeal, the 45-year-old actor must prove that he has a substantial issue to raise and isn't a flight risk.

Snipes' lawyers argue that Hodges gave the jury bad instructions and should have granted them an expanded pretrial hearing on their request to move the proceedings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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• Tamil	416-650-5400	• Afghani	416-650-5800
• Persian	416-650-5800	• Ukrainian	416-650-0400

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE The COC's latest revival of Rossini's ever-popular comic opera. To May 23. Thu., Tue. 7:30 p.m.; Sat. 4:30 p.m. $20-$275. Four Seasons Centre, 145 Queen St. W. 416-363-8231.

BELLA DONNA The daughter of a former pope falls in love with a young soldier while both are in disguise. May 16-June 7. Mon.-Sat. 8 p.m.; Sat. 2 p.m. Fri.-Sat. $28; Tue.-Thu., Sat. matinee $25; Mon. PWYC. Berkeley Street Theatre, 26 Berkeley. 416-368-3110.

BREAKFAST Independent Aunties present a new work by Anna Chatterton and Evalyn Parry. To June 1. Tue.-Sat. 8 p.m.; Sun. 2:30 p.m. $15-$20. Theatre Centre, 100-1087 Queen St. W. 416-534-9261.

DANCE OF THE RED DIRTY DANCING The musical based on the hit movie. To Aug. 31. Wed.-Sat. 8 p.m.; Sat.-Sun. 2 p.m. $36-$200. Royal Alexandra Theatre, 260 King St. W. 416-872-1212.

THE ECO SHOW A production that examines how the ecology of one family is changed by the ecology of the world. May 15-June 1. Tue.-Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m. $20-$25; Sun. PWYC. Buddies In Bad Times Theatre, 12 Alexander. 416-975-8555.

EVIL DEAD: THE MUSICAL The latest reanimation of the splatterstick spectacular. Extended to June 14. Mon.-Thu. 8 p.m.; Fri. 7:30 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. 11 p.m.; Sat. 7 p.m. $29.50-$75. Diesel Playhouse, 56 Blue Jays Way. 416-961-5656.

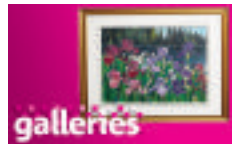
EXPLOSION: A MUSICAL REVUE Highlights popular music over the last five decades. To July 6. Tue.-Sat. 8:15 p.m. (dinner 6:30 p.m.); Sun. 6:45 p.m. (dinner 5 p.m.); Wed., Sun. 12:30 p.m. (brunch 11 a.m.). $55-$95. Stage West Hotel Theatre, 5400 Dixie. 905-238-0042.

THE FACTS BEHIND THE HELSINKI ROCCAMATIOS A story of two friends coping with AIDS by Life Of Pi author Yann Martel. May 21-25. Wed. 8 p.m. $25. Factory Theatre, 125 Bathurst. 416-504-9971.

KISMET A musical comedy about a failed poet whose life changes. May 21-June 8. Wed. 7 p.m. $20. Fairview Library Theatre, 35 Fairview Mall. 416-755-1717.

THE LAST FIVE YEARS A musical about two New Yorkers who fall in and out of love over five years. May 21-31. Wed. 8 p.m. $15. Bread and Circus, 193½ Baldwin. 647-281-1397.

MY FELLOW CREATURES Two men serving time for the same crime are forced to question their desires. May 16-June 1. Tue.-Sat. 8 p.m.; Sun. 2:30 p.m. Tue. $15; Wed., Thu. $18; Fri. $20; Sat. $25; Sun. PWYC. Theatre Passe Muraille, 16 Ryerson. 416-504-7529.



ACA GALLERY Bend, Fold, Manipulate: 20 artists stitch for peace. To May 28. 183 Queen St. E. 647-868-6043.

AFRICA'S CHILDREN, AFRICA'S FUTURE (AC-AF) Digital Quilt: A collaborative multimedia art project. To May 31. 588 Richmond St. W. 416-203-3715.

ALLEN LAMBERT GALLERIA Photo Narratives: Remembering the 20th Century. To May 30. 181 Bay St.

ALLIANCE FRANCAISE Sommes-Nous? by Tendance Floue. To May 31. 24 Spadina Rd. 416-922-2014.

ARTISTS OF THE WORLD More than 6,000 contemporary pieces from Canadian & international artists. Ongoing. 176 Yonge St., 6th floor. 416-861-4888.

A SPACE GALLERY Obsolete Concepts: Works by various artists. To June 13. 401 Richmond St. W., suite 110. 416-979-9633.

BATA SHOE MUSEUM, Japanese Footwear Exhibition. To May 29. On Pointe: The Rise Of The Ballet Shoe. To Sept. 28. Chronicles Of Riches: Treasures From The Bata Shoe Museum. To Feb. 2009. Beauty, Identity, Pride: Native North American Footwear. To Nov. 2009. 327 Bloor St. W. 416-979-7799.

BLACK MARKET Reality Check: Various media by Global Aware artists. Ongoing. 256A Queen St. W. 416-596-0138.

THE CAMERON HOUSE La Espera: Prints by Deanna Gavida Austerberry. To June 7. 408 Queen St. W. 416-703-0811.

TODAY

9TH ANNUAL TIN PAN NORTH Various venues, see *www.nsaitoronto.com* for details. $10-$30 at 1-877-700-3130. May 22-24.

THE JOHNSTONES w/ Keepin' 6, New Cities, The Real Deal. Opera House. Tickets cost $10.50 at Rotate This, Soundscapes, Horseshoe, Ticketmaster. Early show: 7 p.m.

LET'S GO TO WAR at the Powerball. Power Plant, 235 Queens Quay W. $160 at 416-973-4000.

THE LONG BLONDES w/ Drug Rug, Hunter Valentine. Lee's Palace. Tickets cost $15 at Rotate This, Soundscapes, Horseshoe, Ticketmaster.

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Ryerson hosts Wedding Gown Sale

IN SUPPORT of the New Beginnings charity for women in transition, **Ryerson University's SIFE** program is hosting a timely sale of wedding gowns this Saturday (May 24). Bridezillas on a budget should be sure to make their way to this stellar event, which will showcase over 200 designer dresses priced at just $50 to $100 each as well as a selection of veils and pretty bling for your special day. With lunatic savings like this, it's wise to get there early to get your cheap thrills. Tickets are $10 each, including goody bags and door prizes (while supplies last). To pre-register call 416-260-8465 or visit *www.newbeginningsprogram.ca.*

Where: Ted Rogers School of Management, 575 Bay St. (entrance at 55 Dundas W.).

When: 12 to 5 p.m.

More Than Just a Yardage Sale

ATTENTION FABRIC hounds! The 13th Annual More Than Just A Yardage Sale is back again, raising funds for the **Textile Museum**, next Friday and Saturday (May 30 and 31). Mark your calendars, and plan to be there to scoop up treasures for spring/summer crafty projects. This sale offers up consistently swoon-worthy finds at deliciously low prices.

Bonus: all profits benefit the museum's fibre art programs. Expect a broad spectrum of materials, including yarns, scraps by the bag, upholstery-weight samples, vintage buttons, craft books galore as well as oodles of fabrics, notions and creative inspiration.

Where: in the white tents outside the Textile Museum of Canada, 55 Centre Avenue (near City Hall).

Call 426-599-5321 or visit *www.textilemuseum.ca.*

Hours: Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Value Village Half Off Day

MARK YOUR calendars frugalistas! May 26 is when true bargain-hunters can save 50 per cent off all used clothing, housewares, books and more at **Value Village** stores. This is a great source for summer wearables, fabric and linens and cheapie craft supplies. Sewers who love revamping vintage finds or creative recycling will swoon over the possibilities. Don't miss it, stores open at 8 a.m.

Visit *www.valuevillage.com* for inspiration and project ideas.

Barbie's Basement Online

Check out next weekend's 13th Annual More Than Just A Yardage Sale for a broad spectrum of crafty materials.

T.O.'S BARBIE'S Basement Jewellery, popular amongst fans of pop culture, rock and roll and glitter, recently launched it's on-line boutique. So, you don't have to wait for the One of a Kind Show to snag their sparkly goodies. It's even possible to order custom work (such as a kooky ID tag for your pooch or custom cufflinks for your sweetie) online, so check out the latest quirky-cool pendants, belt buckles, rings, magnets and lots more at: *www.bbj.ca.*

Nathalie-Roze Fischer is an accessories designer, writer and DIY enthusiast. Visit her online at www.nathalie-roze.com or at her indie shop/studio in Leslieville (1015 Queen St. East).

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Fox ratings reign supreme

IDIOT BOX

RICK McGINNIS

rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

HERE WE GO AGAIN: Every year around this time, after the tumbrels have rolled and the blade has come down on the last of the year's failed shows, the numbers are crunched and the cumulative ratings winner of the TV season just ended is announced. For the last few years — or basically as long as I've been writing this column — the big news is usually that Fox has done well, really well, and has either threatened to unseat NBC or CBS for their customary post at the top of the ratings ladder.

It's a funny ritual — if you find ratings tallies and the imprecise language of demography funny. (I do, which is why you don't want to invite me to parties.) CBS' presumed lead for the last few years has been harder to defend, as Fox has taken the lead in more and more key ratings demographics, and has been unofficially crowned winner-in-every-way-that-matters for at least the last two years.

It's been an irritating little ritual to watch, year after year, and it sometimes seemed like the squeamishness about the obvious truth was motivated by the continued perception of Fox as the upstart, the scrawny fox set among the regal network chickens. After reading the round-ups, with their careful parsing of the ratings, I always wanted to hit the caps key on my keyboard and writing something like FOX IS THE NUMBER ONE NETWORK ALREADY CAN'T WE JUST GET USED TO IT?

> *« Fox's ascension to the throne (of network ratings) feels like being crowned king of some plague-wracked, war-ravaged kingdom. »*

This year, there's no point even pretending anymore, as the Los Angeles Times business section ran a story yesterday that the Nielsen numbers have awarded Fox "the largest audience in prime time" and that the network "should collect blue ribbons in every major demographic category." The big "but" to the story is that, given the dismal shambles that characterized the 2007-08 season, which began with a generally unimpressive slate of new shows before being derailed by the writers' strike, Fox's ascension to the throne feels like being crowned king of some plague-wracked, war-ravaged kingdom.

This is the fourth year in a row that Fox has ruled the 18-49-year-old roost, helped enormously by American Idol, and despite a 10-per-cent decline in the show's ratings. With fewer scripted shows, and a shortened prime time (the network switches to local news at 10pm, while its competition has another hour to fill with original programming), Fox was best positioned to survive the year's harrowing conditions, and saw a five-per-cent rise in overall ratings since last year.

Further down the rankings, ABC and CBS are in a photo finish for second place, while NBC, the top network when its comedies ruled the night just a few years ago, is firmly in fourth place. This is known in the business as the Curse Of Joey, and the network is rumoured to be considering ritual exorcism of all of its programming executives at some point over the summer.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 5/22/08	265	353	2	TVO	Failed Inventions		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		P.O.W.		Masterworks		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Deal or No Deal (N)			Last Comic Standing (N)			News (N)
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere II	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Just-Gags	NHL Hockey: Eastern Conference Final Game 7 -- Flyers at Penguins					CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Friends	Hollywood	Ugly Betty "Jump" (N)		The Bachelorette (Season Premiere) (N)				News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	So You Think You Can Dance (Season Premiere) (N)				Grey's Anatomy "Freedom" (N)				News (N)
	218	345	11	CH	The Insider (N)	E! News	Cash Queens of Music		Scream Queens: Women of Horror: True Story				News (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama en direct		La Patrouille arctique		La Poison (1952, Com. dramatique) Michel Simon.				Volt
	-	-	14	-	Law & Order: SVU		News (N)		News (N)		King	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	Endless Love ★ (1981, Drama)			The DVD Show	To Serve and Protect		Grill Rm.
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Big Bang Th	How I Met	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		(10:01) Without a Trace		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Deal or No Deal (N)			Last Comic Standing (N)			News (N)
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Ugly Betty "Jump" (N)		Grey's Anatomy "Freedom" (N)				News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Wheel-Fortune	Degrassi: Next	Big Bang Th	According-Jim	Smallville "Bizarro"		Medium		News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy	Two/Half Men	So You Think You Can Dance (Season Premiere) (N)				Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Goodnight Swt.	Planet Tales (DVS)		The History Project		Phoenix Mars Mission		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Smallville "Bizarro"		Supernatural (HDTV)		CW11 News at Ten		Family Guy
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil		News (N)	Jeopardy!	Frasier	Frasier	Cheers
	298	653	332	TLA	Reba	Reba	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Family Guy	Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Smallville
news	502	390	26	NW	News (N)	Newman	The Hour		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		CNN Election Center		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow & Company		Fast Money		Cash Flow		The Big Idea With Deutsch		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	CHL Hockey MasterCard Memorial Cup Tiebreaker -- Teams TBA. From Kitchener, Ont. (Live)						Sportsnet Connected		Sportsnet Con.
	400	400	30	TSN	That's Hockey	Mike Tyson's Greatest Hits		NBA Basketball Eastern Conference Final Game 2 -- Teams TBA.					SportsCentre
	411	457	58	OLN	Exploration	Videos	Everest: Man	Jet Set	Mark Williams' Big Bangs (N)		Don't Forget Your Passport		Pilot Guides
	417	406	81	SC	NASCAR Racing Sprint Cup -- Coca-Cola 600 Qualifying. (HDTV) (Live)					Pinks Outtakes	Low Life	Low Life	Pinks
family	551	542	25	YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Prank Patrol	Fries That?	Mon. Warriors	Futurama	Shadow Raider	Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	George-Jungle	Road Runner	Scooby Doo	Futurama	Robot Chicken	Tripping-Rift	Robot Chicken	Robot Chicken	Tripping-Rift
	556	540	51	FAM	That's-Raven	Smart Guy	Zack & Cody	Naturally Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	The Suite Life
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Divine Design	House	Confidential	Save Us-House	Wasted!	Save Us-House	House
	570	580	29	MM	The O.C.		Muchmusic Countdown			Born to Be	Messed Up-Memorable		Punk'd
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Breathless"		The First 48 "Memphis"		The First 48 (HDTV)		Crime 360 (HDTV) (N)		The First 48
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Pavarotti and Friends for Cambodia and Tibet				The Sopranos "46 Long" (SS)		Raymond
	571	581	36	MMM	mmmtop	Back In	Johnny Cash Live		Popaganda		Uncovered	Back In	Listed
	575	583	38	CMT	(6) Ultimate Love Songs		Living, Dream	Living, Dream	Reba	Hope & Faith	Home Improve.	Roseanne	Dedicated (N)
	616	521	39	SHO	ReGenesis (HDTV)		Intelligence (DVS)		G-Spot	Exes & Ohs	The Shield "Exiled"		House
	620	523	40	BVO	From the Spirit	In the Mind ...	In the Village	Mary Reilly ★★ (1996, Drama) Julia Roberts.				Bravonews	Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Women on Top	Til Debt-Part	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Last 10	Bulging Brides	Biggest Loser Australia		Rich Poor
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "The Immortals"		Total War		Total War		NCIS "The Immortals"		Crime Stories
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Laughs	Rick Mercer	The Simpsons	South Park	VIP	Jon Dore Show	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Buy Me	Holmes on Homes (N)		Disaster DIY	The Big Flip	Handyman Superstar		Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	MLB Baseball New York Mets at Atlanta Braves. (HDTV) From Turner Field in Atlanta. (Live)						Family Guy	Family Guy	Seinfeld
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park	The Boot	Black Carpet	College Hill	The Little Richard Story ★★ (2000, Biography) Leon.				The Boot
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate SG-1 "Sentinel"		Star Trek: Voyager		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Night Stalker		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	MTV Screen	MTV Peaks '08	4REAL	Parent Control	The Real World		Made "Ballroom Dancer"		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Inside Hollywood		ET Canada	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier	Family Guy
	603	561	56	FOOD	Boy Grill	Licence to Grill	Restaurant Makeover		Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Secret Life of	Secret Life of	Ace of Cakes
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		May-December	Keeping Up	The Solid Gold Cadillac ★★★ (1956, Comedy)				Emily-Moon
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	Hollywood	TMZ (N)	eTalk	American Idol Extra (N)		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		eTalk
	553	546	65	TRE	Ni Hao, Kai-lan	Nght Grdn	Wiggle-Learn	Franklin	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears
	115	711	101	TVA	Les Gags	Un vrai cinglé du cinéma (1956, Comédie)			Héros "Double jeu" (HDTV)		Le TVA 22 heures (N) (SC)		Sucré-salé
	126	730	102	RDI	Dominique Poirier en direct		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		Le Club des ex	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	CLT	The West Wing		By Way of the Stars (1992, Adventure) Zachary Bennett.				Traders		The West Wing
	300	601	301	M1	Demons From Her Past		In Treatment		Standing Still ★★ (2005, Drama)			Scenes of a Sexual Nature	
	305	612	306	PIX	The Frisco Kid ★★ (1979, Western) Gene Wilder.				Blow ★★ (2001, Drama) Johnny Depp, Penélope Cruz.				Dead Silence

critics' corner

So You Think You Can Dance

"American Idol" is over for another season, but if you like star-making competitions, its dance counterpart is back for another season. Like "Idol," it starts out presenting the highlights and lowlights from auditions around the country, so if you enjoy watching the clue-lessly untalented make fools of themselves on national television, now's the time to watch. Cat Deeley returns as host.

7 PM on CTV; 8 PM on FOX

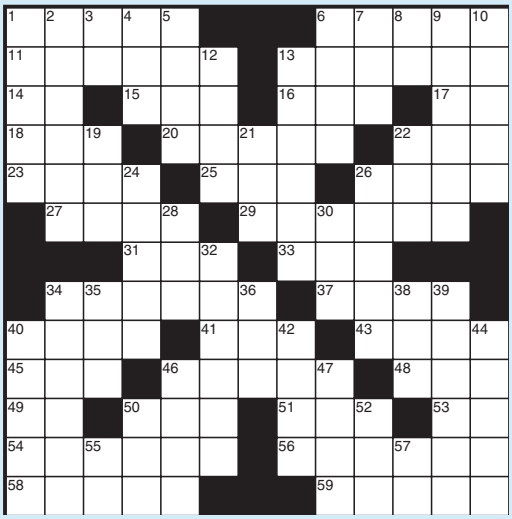
Ugly Betty

Henry, your timing needs work. In the season finale, Betty (America Ferrera) gets a romantic offer from Gio (Freddy Rodriguez) and a visit from Henry (Christopher Gorham), who has his own proposition for her. Wilhelmina (Vanessa Williams) tries to strike out supermodel Naomi Campbell (guest starring as herself) at a softball game between Mode and Elle. Real-life Elle editors Joe Zee and Robbie Myers also guest star in "Jump."

8 PM on ABC CITY

Young, Urban, Active

metro



down

1 Dance move
2 Sympathize
3 Kind of radio
4 Strut along
5 Crackle
6 Sluggish
7 Galleon cargo
8 "Tao — Ching"
9 Just bought
10 Tex-Mex dip
12 Phony coin
13 Memory glitches
19 Censor
21 Cry of disdain
22 Before, in verse
24 Magnate
26 Skilled person
28 Telegraph signal
30 Cry of discovery
32 Mention casually
34 Like always
35 Many millennia
36 — Kippur
38 Heat source
39 Salad follower
40 Heavy hammers
42 Neglect
44 Keen
46 Uh-huh
47 First name in fashion
50 HBO receivers
52 Pipe fitting
55 Element 44
57 — Havre

across

1 Seizes unscrupulously
6 Water lily
11 Slot-machine fruits
13 Golfer — Ochoa
14 Midwestern st.
15 Good buddy
16 Back when
17 Safety-testing org.
18 Bit of paint
20 Cuddly pet
22 Dangerous curve
23 Coup d'—
25 Neon or nitrogen
26 Length x width
27 Tennyson heroine
29 Chaired
31 Aunt, in Madrid
33 Any woman
34 Tidily
37 Church alcove
40 Satellite
41 London lav
43 Winery casks
45 Son of Val and Aleta
46 Delicious
48 Utmost degree
49 Doubtful answer
50 Media mogul — Turner
51 Common contraction
53 Egyptian god
54 Butterflies-to-be
56 Money handler
58 Spring melt
59 Hit the hay

previous answer

B	O	R	E		M	E	W		G	I	L	D
U	N	I	X		O	L	E		O	B	I	E
M	U	C	H		D	I	S		W	I	F	E
	S	H	A	R	E			I	N	S	E	T
			L	U	L	L	E	D				
V	A	L	E	T		E	V	A		B	O	B
I	C	E	D		N	E	E		A	I	D	A
M	E	A		B	O	K		A	N	D	E	S
			E	N	S	I	G	N				
S	T	O	R	E			B	O	O	T	Y	
E	R	G	O		L	A	S		Y	E	A	R
L	I	E	D		A	L	E		E	R	N	E
F	O	E	S		W	I	N		D	I	G	S

This Day IN HISTORY

May 22, 1992: After 30 years, 66-year-old Johnny Carson hosts The Tonight Show for the last time.

May 22, 1990: The Windows 3.0 operating system is released by Microsoft.

May 22, 1960: An earthquake measuring 9.5 on the moment magnitude scale, now known as the Great Chilean Earthquake, hits southern Chile. It is the most powerful earthquake ever recorded.

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A stunning defeat will sadden a loser. A woman will tell a lie for good reasons. You need to recuperate from a risky deed.

TAURUS | April 21-May 21
Be calm with a brash admirer. Dealing with roadwork becomes vexing. Be discreet with a money-making scheme.

GEMINI | May 22-June 21
Making progress will ease your stress. An unexpected sight has you in a tizzy. Help someone out of a financial bind.

CANCER | June 22-July 22
Watch out for wonderful opportunities. Poor conduct will be laughed off. Friends will force you to reassess your life.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 23
Change your mind about making demands. Avoid a confrontation with a bore. A sensational find will cause some healing.

VIRGO | Aug. 24-Sept. 22
An authority figure wants to help out. A new path will alter your love life. Step in to rescue difficult people.

LIBRA | Sep. 23-Oct. 23
Anxiety about a miserable situation will subside. An important person's power will be decreased. Physical discomfort can be relieved.

SCORPIO | Oct. 24- Nov. 22
Reconciliation between workers takes place. You'll be able to endure tremendous emotions. An aversion is clear to everyone.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 23- Dec. 21
A profound meaning will be found. Someone will fail to agree with you. Simply ignore an unsophisticated comment.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 20
A wimpy male has an exciting tale. Understanding will free you from a promise. A lover gets a lesson in emotions.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 21-Feb. 18
An idea will bring out the best in a male. Freedom is declared by a former coward. Avoid impulsively casting blame.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Don't demand agreement from strangers. Being helpful will lead to news. A marriage is followed by a strange reaction.

AVATAR VENUS

		3				1		
	7		9		2		8	
5	4						7	3
		2	3		1	6		
4								9
		5	4		7	8		
1	3						4	8
	5		1		8		6	
		8				9		

instructions

The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

solve time

Under 13 minutes	Genius
13-17 minutes	Scholar
17-21	Smart
21-25	Pretty good
More than 25	Keep practising

previous answer

1	4	5	9	8	3	6	2	7
3	9	8	2	6	7	5	4	1
2	6	7	4	1	5	9	3	8
9	3	4	8	5	2	1	7	6
7	1	6	3	9	4	8	5	2
5	8	2	6	7	1	3	9	4
8	7	3	1	2	9	4	6	5
6	5	9	7	4	8	2	1	3
4	2	1	5	3	6	7	8	9

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theweathernetwork.com

Afternoon	Tonight	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Partly cloudy. 15°	Variable. 7°	Mainly sunny. 19°/ 9°	Sunny. 21°/ 9°	Mainly sunny. 22°/ 12°

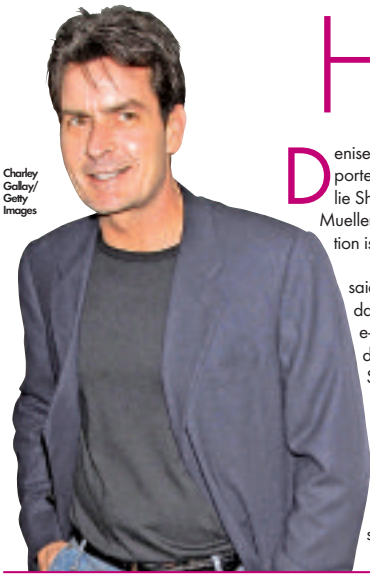
Temperature
Normals
High: 20.6°
Low: 7.9°

Records
High: 31.1°/1964
Low: 0.6°/1967

Sunrise: 5:46 a.m.
Sunset: 8:44 p.m.
Moonset: 7:05 a.m.
Moonrise: 11:36 p.m.

TWN incorporates MSC data

celebritybuzz


Charley Gallay/ Getty Images

He said, she said

Denise Richards says an e-mail purported to be from her to ex Charlie Sheen's now-fiancée Brooke Mueller asking for his sperm donation is "not legitimate."

"It's a doctored e-mail," she said on the Today show yesterday when asked about the e-mail, which came to light during her divorce battle with Sheen. "I would never send an e-mail to (Mueller), and, at the time of that e-mail, I was with (Richie Sambora). If I wanted anybody's sperm, I'd have asked for Richie's," she said. Sheen said in a statement to Today that Richards' claims are "absurd."

"The mere fact she continues to publicly discuss and harass both Brooke and me three years after our separation, which, for the record is longer than the actual length of the marriage, is beyond desperate and speaks volumes," Sheen said, adding, "I will no longer sit back and be egregiously painted as a liar. If any proof can be established that these are not in fact her words and statements verbatim, I openly invite her and would even encourage Ms. Richards to sue me in a court of law." On Tuesday, Richards also blamed the media for her breakup with Sambora, saying they suggested she came between the musician and his ex-wife, Heather Locklear. "They (Sambora and Locklear) were getting divorced; he and I were friends and it happened," Richards told Larry King. "And she had moved on. She was already involved with someone else at the time. It (the press coverage) affected, I think, the circumstances. It was very difficult to sustain a relationship. We were so slammed in the press ... but I did not split up their marriage."

Metro News Services

Mark Mainz/ Getty Images

Whitney cleared

A judge in Hawaii has dropped misdemeanour drug charges against Whitney Houston. According to imdb.com, the judge has dropped charges, which related to an incident in 2000 when she was suspected of possessing marijuana while going through a Hawaiian airport with ex-hubby Bobby Brown. Houston's record label has said she's been free from illegal substances for three years now.

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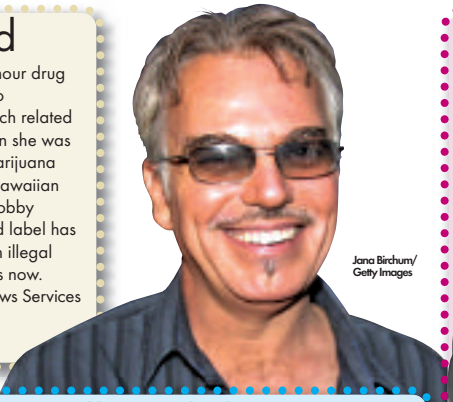
Frederick M. Brown/ Getty Images


Jana Birchum/ Getty Images

Is Billy Bob buggin'?

Billy Bob Thornton is at the centre of a bizarre new police report filed by his former sister-in-law, according to tmz.com. Elysabeth Cherniak claims the actor has bugged her home and regularly sends her insulting e-mails. According to an LAPD report she filed, Thornton has been harassing Cherniak – the sister of the actor's fourth wife Pietra – for almost two years. A spokesman for the actor says, "Billy doesn't use e-mail and never has. Anyone who knows him would know that."

Metro News Services

Frederick M. Brown/ Getty Images

Alba cashes in, weds in secret

Jessica Alba married Cash Warren in a secret ceremony on Monday. The 27-year-old actress' representative Brad Cafarelli has confirmed to People.com a wedding took place, but no other details were made available. Alba is currently eight months pregnant with their first child. The Fantastic Four actress recently said of her relationship with Warren, who she met on the set of the 2005 superhero movie, "It wasn't lust, or 'This is my soulmate.' It was, 'Oh, I'm going to know you for the rest of my life.' It was easy."

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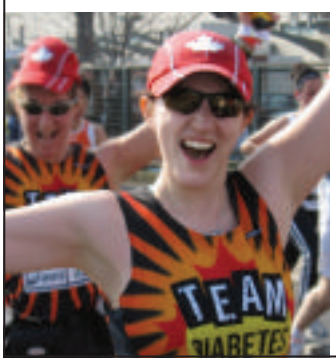

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Prague
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Law takes issue with makeout shots

Bryan Bedder/ Getty Images

Jude Law has sparked rumours he is dating veteran rocker Rod Stewart's daughter Kimberly Stewart, after pictures of the pair enjoying a steamy clinch were published by a British tabloid newspaper. The actor was caught on camera cavorting with the 28-year-old model at a nightspot in Essex, England on Saturday by revelers who snapped the pair in a passionate embrace.

The pictures, which were published by The Sun newspaper, show the pair passionately kissing in the club's VIP area. According to a source at the club, the 35-year-old was enraged to discover he had been photographed – allegedly ordering the club's security personnel to erase the pictures from the reveler's digital camera. The source tells The Sun, "Two bodyguards then came over to us and snatched the camera out of my friend's hand. They passed the camera to Jude, who then looked through our photos."

Law has four children with ex-wife actress Sadie Frost, who he divorced in 2003. He was engaged to Sienna Miller before the pair split in 2006 amid rumours he had cheated with his children's nanny.

Metro News Services

Portman's sex regret

Frazer Harrison/ Getty Images

Natalie Portman regrets filming a naked sex scene. The actress said she has no problem with nudity in films, but wishes she had not stripped off for Wes Anderson's Hotel Chevalier after discovering her picture on porn sites. The star also felt the press focused too much on the scene, rather than the film itself.

She said: "I'm not prudish about nudity. I think it's beautiful in films, and sex is such a big part of life. But my picture ended up on porn sites, and that's the dilemma."

Hotel Chevalier is a short film which acts as a prologue to Anderson's feature film The Darjeeling Limited and also stars Jason Schwartzman.

Portman – who also played a stripper in 2004's Closer – had previously insisted she would never appear in a nude scene.

Metro News Services

Video of wilder times?

Sean Gallup/ Getty Images

Before she was lauded for her humanitarian work, Angelina Jolie was known as the wild child of Hollywood.

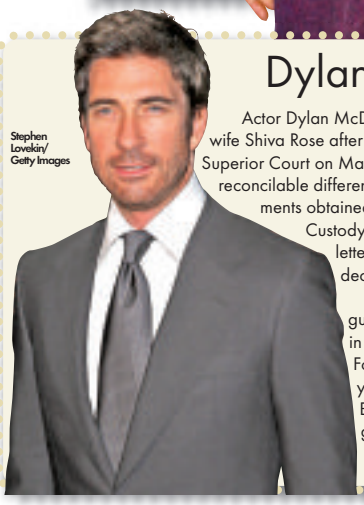
Now, according to InTouch weekly, a video showing the actress in a drug den has surfaced. In the video, Angelina allegedly smokes, babbles about S&M sex and killing her pet animals while a woman smokes an unknown substance next to her.

Jolie has publicly admitted to her drug past before, having said, "I've done coke, heroin, ecstasy, LSD, everything. I gave them up long ago."

According to the U.K.'s Sun newspaper, she was apparently a regular at the drug den in New York's once infamous Chelsea Hotel, and a fellow regular said, "Even back then I remember her talking about how she'd adopt a huge family from around the world."

Metro News Services

Dylan divorcing


Stephen Lovekin/ Getty Images

Actor Dylan McDermott filed for divorce from wife Shiva Rose after 12 years of marriage in L.A. Superior Court on May 16. McDermott, 46, cited irreconcilable differences, according to court documents obtained by Usmagazine.com.

Custody of their two daughters, Collette, 12, and Charlotte, 2 will be decided at a later date.

In 2001, McDermott gushed to Diane Sawyer, "I was in love with [Shiva] right away. For her, it was a little longer, you know, a couple of years. But for me, it was right away. I guess it was grace."

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